

#LifeChangers



#LifeChangers Newsletter | 2023 Third Edition

Welcome to the third edition of 'Life Changers', the newsletter from the Faculty of Health Sciences at the University of Pretoria.



As the year draws to a close, I extend heartfelt gratitude to our remarkable staff members, students, Faculty EXCO, sponsors, and partners. Your unwavering courage, support, and perseverance have been the bedrock of our success. I am confident that our collective pursuit of excellence will endure, and our resilience will guide us through the challenges that lie ahead. In the sprint of Life Changers, we are poised to continue making a positive impact as we navigate the opportunities of the coming year.

In this issue, we continue with the trajectory of breaking silos through collaboration and transdisciplinary efforts, focusing on stories that exemplify innovation, co-creation, and collaboration within our vibrant faculty.

The SIMUPWars 2023 competition epitomises innovation in transdisciplinary healthcare education. This ground-breaking event showcases the power of collaboration and co-creation, bringing together the private sector, students, and experts from various healthcare disciplines to tackle real-world healthcare challenges.

Our students have not only excelled academically but also showcased compassion and leadership. Michael Stark, an MSc (Human Physiology) student, received the Rising Star research excellence award at the International Cell Death Society conference. Charné Eileen Swart's international Fair Play award and Kudakwashe Meja's recognition as an African Honoree Author illustrate how our students are making a positive impact in the world through their innovative approaches.

Our commitment to community service shines through as we recount the touching story of first-year occupational therapy students who assisted at the Prinshof School for the Visually Impaired Primary School Sports Day. The Department of Human Nutrition's diabetes awareness event demonstrates our commitment to collaborative efforts that address critical health issues.

In this edition, you'll also find stories of innovation, visionary leadership, and ground-breaking research conducted by our dedicated faculty members and researchers.

Each story is a testament to the spirit of innovation, co-creation, and collaboration that defines the Faculty of Health Sciences. Together, we are the 'Innovative Clan with a Plan', and together, we are the true 'Life Changers'.

As we approach the holiday season, I wish you and your loved ones the very best. May you enjoy a well-deserved rest, stay safe, and use this time for recuperation. I eagerly anticipate continuing our transformation journey in 2024, creating opportunities, and making a lasting impact on society.

We hope you find the newsletter informative.

Kind regards
Prof Tiaan de Jager

Innovation, co-creation, and collaboration. Read all about it!

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UP hosts unprecedented SIMUPWars 2023 competition, elevating transdisciplinary healthcare education

The University of Pretoria's Faculty of Health Sciences has once again pushed the boundaries of healthcare education by hosting the second instalment of its ground-breaking transdisciplinary competition, SIMUPWars 2023.

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UP's Department of Human Nutrition hosts **diabetes awareness and education event**

The Eersterust Community Health Centre (CHC) became a hub of interaction and raising awareness in the community when it hosted the How to Master Diabetes intervention session on 16 August 2023.

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UP medical student earns international **Fair Play Award** for compassion at the finish line

Charné Eileen Swart, a dedicated student at the University of Pretoria's Faculty of Health Sciences and a formidable athlete, was honoured with the esteemed international Fair Play award during the Chengdu FISU Games in Chengdu, China.

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UP graduate is **South Africa's top nuclear medicine physician**

University of Pretoria graduate Janet Reed is South Africa's top nuclear medicine physician.

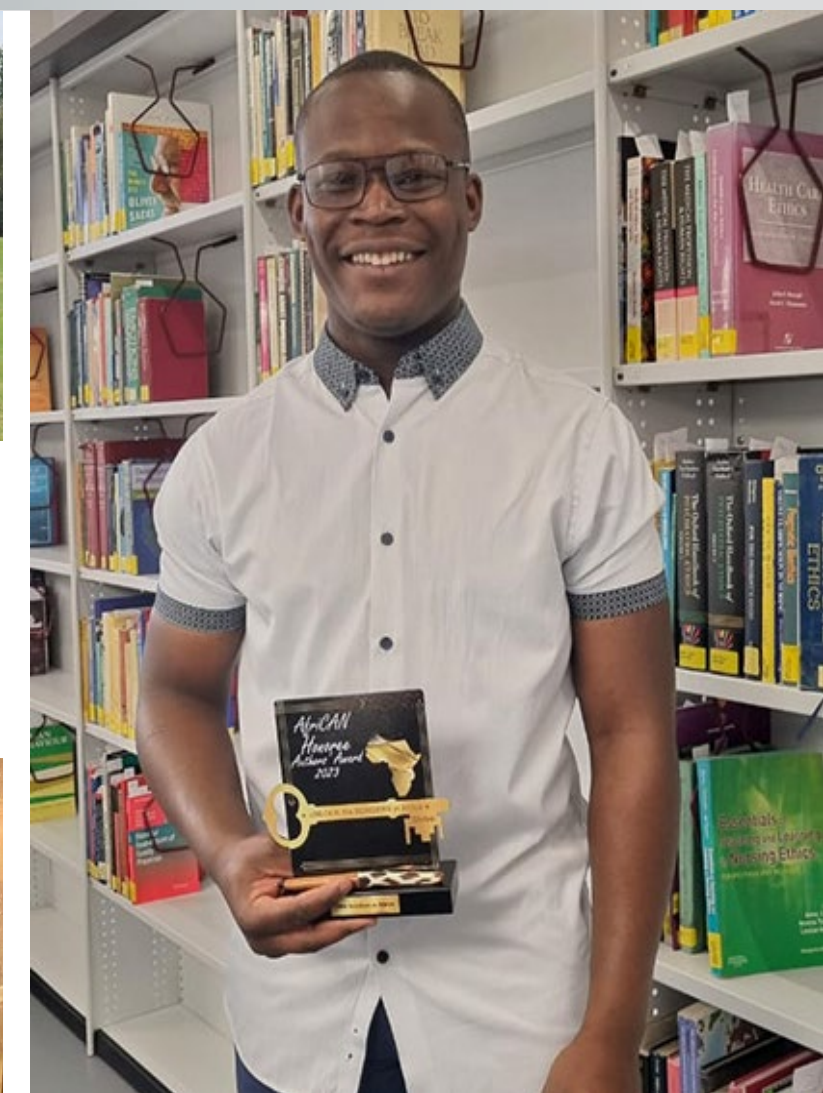
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UP physiology **MSc student receives Rising Star award at international conference**

Michael Stark, an MSc (Human Physiology) student at the University of Pretoria, achieved the remarkable honour of receiving the Rising Star research excellence award at the International Cell Death Society (ICDS) conference.

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UP student receives **AfriCAN Honoree Author's Award**

In a celebration of African talent spanning various fields, the AfriCAN child your time is now (ACYTIN) organisation, led by acclaimed entrepreneur, author, and international speaker Anthea Thyssen-Ambursley, recently honoured a budding author, Kudakwashe Meja, a fourth-year radiography student from the Faculty of Health Sciences, University of Pretoria.

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*‘Kindness is a language which the blind can see and the deaf can hear’
—Mark Twain*

The first-year occupational therapy students had the opportunity to assist at the Prinshof School for the Visually Impaired Primary School Sports Day, which took place on 25 August 2023, from 08:00 to 12:00.

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Disrupting the norm in higher education: UP's immersive learning exhibition receives **Innovation Excellence Award**

The University of Pretoria's innovative teaching and learning initiatives have been disrupting the norm for several years. A significant milestone in its journey of navigating disruption in higher education is the Innovation Excellence Award its immersive learning exhibition received.

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Professors Sumaiya Adam and Werner Cordier represent the University of Pretoria at the International LOOP Symposium

Professors Sumaiya Adam (Obstetrics and Gynaecology) and Werner Cordier (Pharmacology) proudly represented the University of Pretoria alongside several other South African delegates at the International LOOP Symposium held in Germany on 24 and 25 August 2023.

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UP's School of Health Systems and Public Health pays tribute to **visionary leadership as it celebrates its 25th anniversary**

The School of Health Systems and Public Health (SHSPH) in the Faculty of Health Sciences at the University of Pretoria hosted its first SHSPH Research Day on 29 June 2023 to celebrate its 25th anniversary.

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University of Pretoria's Faculty of Health Sciences hosts **engaging Faculty Research Day**

The Faculty of Health Sciences at the University of Pretoria hosted its highly anticipated Faculty Research Day at the Tswelopele Building, Prinshof South Campus, on 24 August 2023.

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'Growing human resistance to antibiotics requires global cooperation', says UP Head of Pharmacology

The ever-growing human resistance to antimicrobials—agents such as antibiotic medicines that slow the growth of or kill organisms like bacteria, viruses, fungi, and parasites—has made it increasingly important for different sectors of society to work together to curtail the extent of the resistance. This was the warning issued by Professor Natalie Schellack, Head of the Department of Pharmacology at the University of Pretoria and registered pharmacist, during her inaugural lecture.

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UP's Prof Trevor Nyakudya shines at the 5th International Congress of SA2P

The Department of Physiology at the University of Pretoria proudly announced the remarkable participation of Professor Trevor Nyakudya at the recently concluded 5th International Congress of the African Society of Physiology and Physiopathology (SA2P).

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G20 recognises UP's Kathry Malherbe—a landmark achievement for South African innovation

In a ground-breaking moment for South African innovation, Dr Kathryn Malherbe from the Department of Radiography in UP's Faculty of Health Sciences has earned international recognition on the global stage of the G20 Digital Innovation Alliance Conference.

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Physiotherapy professor scoops top award at the Tshwane District Research Conference

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UP's Prof Mashamba-Thompson appointed Deputy Chairperson of National Health Research Committee

In a significant development for South Africa's health research sector, Prof Mashamba-Thompson has been appointed as the Deputy Chairperson of the National Health Research Committee (NHRC) for the term 2023–2026.

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UP professor's inaugural address shines a spotlight on the health impact of air pollution in South Africa

In a thought-provoking inaugural address titled 'When breathing is dangerous', Professor Janine Wichmann, a professor in the School of Health Systems and Public Health (SHSPH), Faculty of Health Sciences, University of Pretoria, delivered a compelling discourse on the profound effects of air pollution on human health, with a particular focus on its implications within South Africa.

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World Netball appoints UP's Prof Christa Janse van Rensburg as Chair of the World Netball Medical Advisory Panel

World Netball has appointed Prof Christa Janse van Rensburg, who heads the Section of Sports Medicine in the Faculty of Health Sciences, as the Chair of the World Netball Medical Advisory Panel (MAP).

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Democratising healthcare across sub-Saharan Africa, the focus of UP Faculty of Health Sciences professor's inaugural lecture

In her inaugural address, Deputy Dean of Research and Postgraduate Studies in UP's Faculty of Health Sciences, Professor Tivani Mashamba-Thompson, focused on democratising healthcare access in sub-Saharan Africa through research conducted by teams in Ghana, Rwanda, South Africa, and globally since 2015.

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Tuks Children's Trust receives top honours from the South African Paediatric Association

On 11 September 2023, the South African Paediatric Association (SAPA) bestowed a remarkable honour upon the Tuks Children's Trust (TCT) at the University of Pretoria by recognising the student-led organisation as the best Care Bear organisation for 2023.

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UP researcher shortlisted for Cancer Grand Challenges funding

Professor Zodwa Dlamini, a distinguished researcher at UP's Faculty of Health Sciences, has reached the final stages of the prestigious Cancer Grand Challenges, representing Team SAMBAI.

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Department of Nursing Science hosts 'Mothering and Albinism' Seminar: Exploring albinism, birthing, and human rights in Africa

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Leading international nuclear medicine congress recognises UP's Prof Mike Sathekge for pioneering contributions and patient care

The Society of Nuclear Medicine and Molecular Imaging (SNMMI), the leading international nuclear medicine congress, has bestowed one of its highest honours upon Professor Mike Sathekge, the Head of the Department of Nuclear Medicine at the University of Pretoria and Steve Biko Academic Hospital.

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UP's Faculty of Health Sciences researchers shine bright at NRF Awards

The University of Pretoria's Faculty of Health Sciences proudly celebrates the outstanding achievements of two exceptional researchers who were honoured at this year's National Research Foundation (NRF) Awards Ceremony.

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UP's nursing conference highlights Ubuntu philosophy's role in healthcare

Against the backdrop of the COVID-19 pandemic, where the global healthcare community faced unprecedented challenges and disruption, this conference, held from 13 to 15 September 2023, provided valuable insights into Ubuntu philosophy, caring ethics, and collective responsibility in healthcare.

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University of Pretoria's dual-language malaria leadership programme breaks barriers

In a remarkable stride towards malaria elimination, the University of Pretoria Institute for Sustainable Malaria Control's (UP ISMC) 'Leadership and Management Training for Impact in Malaria Eradication' course is making waves as the first-ever dual-language programme at the University.



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UP's Clinical Associates Research Symposium celebrates clinical associates

On 6 October 2023, the Clinical Associates Research Symposium gathered to shine a spotlight on the essential contributions of clinical associates within the healthcare system. Hosted by the Department of Family Medicine at the University of Pretoria, the symposium aimed to enhance awareness of this critical profession within the academic community.

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University of Pretoria and Tshwane District collaborate for 10th Health Services Research Conference

The University of Pretoria's Faculty of Health Sciences, in partnership with the Tshwane District, successfully hosted the 10th Tshwane District Health Services Research Conference held at the state-of-the-art Engineering 4.0 building from 28 to 29 September 2023.

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UP's 14th Biennial O&G Update showcases global expertise in obstetrics and gynaecology

The Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology in the Faculty of Health Sciences at the University of Pretoria, in collaboration with the South African Society of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists, successfully hosted the 14th Biennial O&G Update at the CSIR Convention Centre from 21 to 23 September 2023.

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UP clinical lecturer in physiotherapy wins gold and bronze in karate competition

Joseph Shiraaz, a clinical supervisor for paediatrics at the University of Pretoria's Department of Physiotherapy, has recently made waves in the martial arts world, securing both gold and bronze medals at the prestigious Asia Africa Cup organised by the Japan Karate Shoto Federation (JKS) in Dubai from 14 to 16 September 2023.

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UP's Faculty of Health Sciences Research Support Hub and SAMRC SAPRIN collaborate on research capacity-building for data science

Colleagues from UP's Faculty of Health Sciences (FHS), the Wits Vida Unit, and the South African Medical Research Council (SAMRC) gathered at the University of Pretoria's Prinshof Campus for a series of SAMRC South African Population Research Infrastructure Network (SAPRIN) workshops hosted by the FHS Research Support Hub.

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UP's Faculty of Health Sciences and University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign explore exciting collaborative opportunities

On 18 September 2023, the Faculty of Health Sciences at the University of Pretoria welcomed a delegation from the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign to discuss potential collaborations and partnerships.

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University of Pretoria Faculty of Health Sciences hosts delegation from Global Health Education Group

The University of Pretoria's Faculty of Health Sciences recently hosted a distinguished delegation from the Global Health Education Group (GHEG), a mission-led enterprise backed by university partners.

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New Appointments

Miss F Oelofse	Internship (Department Public Health Medicine)
Miss K Maringa	Internship (Department Public Health Medicine)
Ms M Tolo	Jnr Research Assistant (Department Public Health Medicine)
Mr L Naidu	Lecturer (Department of Anatomy)
Miss M Mtshali	Internship (Department of Anatomy)
Sr RM Ramothole	Professional Nurse (Department of Internal Medicine)
Mr A Morris	Assistant Research Officer (Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology)
Miss L Mpolokeng	Internship (Department Public Health Medicine)
Miss T Serite	Internship (Dean's Office)
Miss M Tsebe	Internship (Dean's Office)
Miss S Ramatsokotla	Internship (Dean's Office)
Miss SL Hlophe	Internship (Department of Forensic Medicine)
Ms O Motloba	Internship (Department of Surgery)
Ms SPJ Monama	Departmental Administrator (School of Health System & Public Health)
Ms K Matlou	Research Assistant (Department of Medical Virology)
Ms O Mukhuwana	Research Assistant (Department of Medical Virology)
Ms L Balakrishna	Research Assistant (Department of Medical Virology)
Mr V Mphethe	Research Assistant (Department of Medical Virology)
Mrs A Genis	Research Nurse (Department of Immunology)
Miss T Keikabile	Social Worker (Department of Family Medicine)
Miss KM Letsoalo	Internship (Department of Family Medicine)
Dr L Mfingwana	Senior Lecturer (Department of Paediatrics and Child Health)

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