FACULTY OF HEALTH SCIENCES
UNIVERSITY OF CAPE TOWN

Cutting-edge health research · World-class training and education · Partnering for patient-centred health services

CONTRIBUTING TO AFRICAN AND GLOBAL HEALTH THROUGH LEADERSHIP, COLLABORATION AND SOCIAL RESPONSIVENESS
HIGHEST RANKED FACULTY OF HEALTH SCIENCES IN AFRICA

In 2012, the University of Cape Town (UCT) became the first tertiary institution in Africa to be placed in the Top 50 of the Times Higher Education World University (THE) Rankings for clinical, pre-clinical and health universities. Established over 100 years ago in 1912, the Faculty of Health Sciences is the oldest medical school in sub-Saharan Africa, and has built a reputation for distinction in its teaching, training and cutting-edge research. We have kept pace with global approaches to academic health sciences, accelerating efforts to improve health on our continent. Our staff have an international reputation for excellence, and 11 000 plus graduates continue to make their mark globally, many having achieved worldwide acclaim in their fields.

UCT - THE HIGHEST RANKED AFRICAN UNIVERSITY

The Faculty of Health Sciences is the largest of six faculties at the University of Cape Town. The University is South Africa’s oldest. It is the top African university in world university rankings. UCT attracts excellent local and international students, with almost one fifth of its approximately 25 000 registered students coming from foreign countries, mostly in Africa.

The Faculty is led by the Dean, Prof Wim de Villiers, assisted by a team of Deputy Deans: Research (Prof Tanya Douglas), Undergraduate Affairs (Ass Prof Gonda Perez), Postgraduate Affairs (Ass Prof Denver Hendricks), Health Services (Dr Reno Morar).

- Ranked among the top 50 health sciences faculties in the world in 2012
- 10 National Orders and a Presidential Award in recognition of outstanding contributions to the country
- 2 Nobel Laureates
- Our research groups are involved in multi-disciplinary cutting-edge research on TB, HIV, malaria, chronic diseases, surgery, psychiatry and mental health, among others.
- > 4 peer reviewed publications/day
- 10 of our scientists have received top national ratings by the country’s National Research Foundation*
- Of UCT’s 3 top-rated women scientists in South Africa, 2 are in Health Sciences

* The National Research Foundation is an independent government agency that promotes and supports research in the South Africa.
In South Africa, we produce the most peer-reviewed publications annually among all health sciences faculties. The Faculty brings in approximately 57% of UCT’s research income. Our peer-reviewed publications in 2011 accounted for 41% of UCT’s total.

Our responsibility to educate the leaders of tomorrow extends to the African continent. In this respect, our postgraduate programmes are building research capacity to address health in developing contexts, with a significant number of our postgraduate students coming from Africa.

LEADERS IN RESEARCH

OUR HEALTH ACHIEVEMENTS AND RESEARCH ARE WORLD RENOWNED

The Faculty’s prestigious reputation is built on a proud history of medical achievement and innovative research that have impacted health globally. We have produced ground-breaking medical advances, such as the first test of its kind for pregnancy, the first successful heart transplant, and research by a future Nobel Laureate that led to the development of the CAT scanner.

Our research stands amongst the best worldwide - our position in the Times Higher Education World University Rankings (subject specific) was strongly influenced by research performance, with scores of 89% on citations and 96% on innovation. Within our 11 departments, numerous divisions and 23 accredited research groupings are global experts in their fields.

The multidisciplinary Institute for Infectious Disease and Molecular Medicine (IDM) is a postgraduate research enterprise that stands out in Africa through its ability to drive world-class research into high-burden diseases at the laboratory-clinic-community interface.

The Faculty’s research enterprise attracts significant funder investment. We partner and collaborate with many international organisations, building research capacity and impact. Our researchers serve on many national and international bodies – on the African continent and beyond – and host key international meetings and events.

In keeping with our mission to undertake research relevant to the needs of our country and the African continent, in the context of global health, our focus is geared towards addressing health priorities in developing country settings.

The Faculty is committed to encouraging multi-disciplinary collaboration to address these health priorities, encouraging cross-pollination of ideas, and maximising cost-effective access to key research resources.

We work diligently to be a premier health sciences institution, contributing to global health through leadership, collaboration and social responsiveness.

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WE ARE A FACULTY OF CHOICE FOR TRAINING AND EDUCATION

We are an institution of choice for those seeking world-class training to be educated as health professionals and developed as health scientists. The Faculty has trained some outstanding health practitioners and scientists locally and globally, totalling over 11000 alumni.

Our student admissions, from all corners of our country and beyond, have increased substantially over the years. The Faculty’s applications process is highly competitive – the number of first year MBChB applications exceeds 5000, for only 220 available places. Our throughput is almost 100%, with consistently excellent final year results achieved in undergraduate programmes.

The Faculty’s mission includes advancing health equity through promoting health professional standards in the delivery of quality health care and educating health professionals, educators and scientists who are fit for purpose. Our training platform ensures our students are exposed to real-life situations and are equipped with appropriate skills in their training at tertiary, secondary and community-based levels of health services across 87 public health facilities.

We now educate almost 4000 under- and postgraduate students each year, across multiple disciplines. In 2012, our postgraduate numbers exceeded our undergraduate, illustrating the attraction and promise we have for aspirant health scientists. Postgraduate programmes include a range of diplomas and degrees, as well as specialist and sub-specialist degrees.

More than 50% of students are postgraduate

WE WORK IN PARTNERSHIP WITH GOVERNMENT

A key relationship is with our health departments at local, provincial and national levels. UCT has access to crucial training and research platforms for our students and academics, and the health departments benefit from our medical expertise and research outputs.

OUR DEPARTMENTS

• Anaesthesia
• Paediatrics & Child Health
• Clinical Laboratory Sciences
• Health & Rehabilitation Sciences
• Human Biology
• Medicine
• Obstetrics & Gynaecology
• Psychiatry & Mental Health
• Public Health & Family Medicine
• Radiation Medicine
• Surgery

Our graduates are ‘fit-for-purpose’ - 4000 under- and postgraduate students are trained annually across 87 public health facilities in communities.
ADVANCING GLOBAL HEALTH WITH A SPECIAL FOCUS ON AFRICA

We are playing a vital role in responding to South African, African and global health problems through supporting training and research. Our research contributes to policy development and implementation at national and international levels with many of our senior academics playing key advisory roles for health-related organisations. To appropriately meet growing healthcare demands, the faculty is expanding its core business in undergraduate education, postgraduate training and research. We have responded to the national call to increase the number of graduating doctors by increasing our intake of students for the MBChB programmes. We have committed to accelerating early-career development to cultivate our next generation of researchers, locally and in Africa. We have actively pursued building and strengthening partnerships in Africa with other health faculties as well as with research and advocacy organisations to strengthen health capacity in developing contexts.

OUR AFRICAN PARTNERSHIPS FOCUS ON RESEARCH AND CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT WITHIN AFRICA TO ADDRESS AFRICAN HEALTH CHALLENGES

Our researchers are actively involved in establishing and developing research and advocacy initiatives like H3ABioNet, Vaccines for Africa (VACFA), TB Vaccine Trials Networks (TBVACCSIN), the African Paediatric Fellowship Programme, the Pan African Society of Cardiology, The Article 5 Initiative, PRogramme for Improving Mental health carE (PRIME), The AFrica Focus on Intervention Research for Mental Health (AFFIRM), HIV/AIDS Study, Registrar Training Scheme, a Postgraduate Nursing Programme, Speech Language Therapy Education and Training Programme, Paediatric Colorectal Surgery Training, Centre for Occupational and Environmental Health Research (COEHR), Curriculum Development, Clinical Infectious Disease Research Initiative (CIDRI), Heart Of Africa Projects and HEDU-Africa.