Faculty of Health Sciences

DEPARTMENT OF ANAESTHESIA
SCHOOL OF CHILD AND ADOLESCENT HEALTH
DEPARTMENT OF CLINICAL LABORATORY SCIENCES
SCHOOL OF HEALTH AND REHABILITATION SCIENCES
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN BIOLOGY
DEPARTMENT OF MEDICINE
DEPARTMENT OF OBSTETRICS AND GYNAECOLOGY
PRIMARY HEALTH CARE DIRECTORATE
DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHIATRY AND MENTAL HEALTH
SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND FAMILY MEDICINE
DEPARTMENT OF RADIATION MEDICINE
DEPARTMENT OF SURGERY
Across the faculty and its disciplines, our academics continue to excel, with achievements ranging from research excellence awards and significant funding grants to peer recognition of global excellence and leadership as evidenced in prestigious publications, as well as the appointments of our colleagues to the governing boards of various international research bodies.
2010 proved to be another successful year for research in the Faculty of Health Sciences, with the most talked-about event of the year being the International Research Review that took place in November.

The decision to subject the faculty’s research endeavours to peer-review was the brainchild of Professor Gregory Hussey, Deputy Dean: Research. The panel was chaired by Dr Leon Fine, Professor of Biomedical Sciences and Medicine and Director of Graduate Research Education at the Cedars-Sinai Medical Centre, and included a distinguished panel of internationally recognised health scientists. The panel reviewed the faculty’s current research achievements and challenges, and its recommendations will be a critical contribution to the formulation of the faculty’s research strategy for the next 10 years.

Across the faculty and its disciplines, our academics continue to excel, with achievements ranging from research excellence awards and significant funding grants to peer recognition of global excellence and leadership as evidenced in prestigious publications, as well as the appointments of our colleagues to the governing boards of various international research bodies. One of the major thrusts initiated in 2010 was the stimulation of clinical research activities. Although this has always been an area of strong research emphasis within the faculty, the approach has not always been closely linked to clinical practice and the training of health care practitioners. In recent months, a concerted effort has been made to strengthen these and to draw clinical research into the mainstream research arena, and these efforts are already beginning to pay off.

In 2010 the faculty was home to more than 1300 postgraduate students, with 242 of these being PhD candidates. During two graduation ceremonies, the university awarded 112 master’s degrees and a laudable 32 PhDs. Disciplines of focus ranged from the basic and clinical sciences to public health and population sciences. In addition, the faculty boasted 117 postgraduate diplomas and 63 honours degrees, representing an important component of a taproot into more senior research degrees. Of importance is that the faculty also hosts a significant number of postdoctoral fellows, numbering 68 in 2010.

A notable achievement was the increase in the number of publications in accredited journals by our faculty from 348.89 in 2008 and 370.94 in 2009, to 383.42 units being published in 2010. This is approximately 70 percent more than the number of publications, as measured by units, achieved five years ago.

In the year under review, researchers in the faculty brought in almost R280 million in research contract funding, with the lion’s share coming from foreign organisations such as the US-based National Institutes of Health and the UK-based Wellcome Trust.

We also take great pride in the relationships that we enjoy with South African funders across the spectrum, from government agencies to the corporate sector, and we continue to appreciate the invaluable contribution that they make to our research enterprise.

The Health Economics Unit celebrated its 20th anniversary in 2010. This unit, which is widely recognised as the leading health economics academic institution in Africa, is also one of the most well-established and respected research units in this field in low- and middle-income countries. It continues to conduct research to inform national health financing policy developments, while also producing graduates who have been appointed to positions of influence in both academia and practice.

We were well represented at the 2010 Discovery Foundation Awards, with five individuals and two divisions having been awarded prizes, and the Institutional Award to Zithulele Hospital will facilitate the building of partnerships with the faculty to advance our commitment to the training and support of rural health practitioners.

I continue to be immensely proud of the people who make up the faculty of Health Sciences at the University of Cape Town, and thank them for their dedication and commitment.

PROFESSOR MARIAN JACOBS
DEAN OF THE FACULTY OF HEALTH SCIENCES
DOCTORAL GRADUATIONS

J. AKAZILI (PUBLIC HEALTH AND FAMILY MEDICINE)
Equity in health care financing in Ghana.
Supervised by Dr Prof. D. McIntyre

R.L. BENJAMIN (HUMAN BIOLOGY)
Non-maximum entropy polymer elasticity, viscoelasticity and the lattice Boltzmann method.
Supervised by Prof. B.D. Reddy

A. BERE (CLINICAL LABORATORY SCIENCES)
Comparison of HIV-1 specific T cell immunity in the female genital tract and blood of HIV-infected women: impact of in vitro T cell expansion on HIV-specific T cell specificity, maturation status and functional complexity.
Supervised by Dr J. Passmore

A.M. BOULLE (PUBLIC HEALTH AND FAMILY MEDICINE)
The effectiveness and determinants of effectiveness of antiretroviral therapy for adults in the Western Cape Province of South Africa.
Supervised by Prof. J. Myers and Prof. G. Maartens

J.C. BRACHER (CLINICAL LABORATORY SCIENCES)
Expression and regulation of H/Myc downstream-regulated gene 1 in squamous cell carcinoma of the oesophagus.
Supervised by A/Prof. D. Hendricks and Dr V. Leaner

T.M.H. BROMBACHER (CLINICAL LABORATORY SCIENCES)
The role of Interleukin-4 receptor alpha on smooth muscle cells during helminth infection.
Supervised by Prof. F. Brombacher and A/Prof. L. Kelloway

G.L. CARVILL (CLINICAL LABORATORY SCIENCES)
The role of epigenetic factors in the pathogenesis of familial X-linked mental retardation (XLNR).
Supervised by Dr R.T. Goliath

K. CHATTERJEE (CLINICAL LABORATORY SCIENCES)
A study of host genetic determinants of human papillomavirus (HPV) infection, cervical cancer and herpes simplex virus type-2 (HSV-2) infection.
Supervised by Prof. A.-L. Williamson and Dr C. Dandara

I.M. DAMBUSA (CLINICAL LABORATORY SCIENCES)
Investigating transmembrane TNF and transmembrane p55TNFR mediated signaling in host immune function during Mycobacterium tuberculosis infection.
Supervised by A/Prof. M. Jacobs

B.D. DOBSON (HUMAN BIOLOGY)
Analysis of the expression pattern and functional role of Nogo-A and its receptor during optic nerve regeneration in the lizard Gallotia galloti.
Supervised by Dr D. Lang

J. EVANS (CLINICAL LABORATORY SCIENCES)
Investigation of the genetic basis of antibiotic resistance in Mycobacterium tuberculosis.
Supervised by Dr H. Segal

R. GALVAAN (HEALTH AND REHABILITATION SCIENCES)
A critical ethnography of young adolescents’ occupational choices in a community in post-apartheid South Africa.
Supervised by Prof. S.L. Amnoon and A/Prof. L. van Niekerk

H.P. GIDEON (CLINICAL LABORATORY SCIENCES)
Studies on in vitro reactivity to antigens of Mycobacterium tuberculosis.
Supervised by Prof. R.J. Wilkinson and Dr K.A. Wilkinson

P.P. GUMBI (CLINICAL LABORATORY SCIENCES)
HIV pathogenesis in the female genital tract during chronic HIV infection: the impact of inflammation, T cell memory differentiation status and homeostatic cytokines on mucosal T cell immunity.
Supervised by Dr J. Passmore

J.C. HOVING (CLINICAL LABORATORY SCIENCES)
Investigating the role of IL-4/IL-13 and their receptors in ulcerative colitis.
Supervised by Prof. F. Brombacher

M.T. IRURZUN-LÓPEZ (PUBLIC HEALTH AND FAMILY MEDICINE)
Absorptive capacity to finance HIV/AIDS treatment in South Africa: where are the bottlenecks?
Supervised by Dr E. Simanovic and Dr F. Booyse

T.A. KELLERMANN (MEDICINE)
A pharmacological investigation of South African khench, desiccation-tolerant plants and the medicinal tree, Wamburga solanifolia.
Supervised by A/Prof. P. Smith

A. KERRIGAN (CLINICAL LABORATORY SCIENCES)
The functional characterisation of marine CLEC2 and analysis of the expression of its ligand, podoplanin, on macrophages.
Supervised by Prof. G.D. Brown

D. KESWELL (HUMAN BIOLOGY)
An assessment of molecular and cellular mechanisms involved in melanocyte migration in the skin.
Supervised by Prof. S.H. Kidson and Dr L.M. Davids

L. LACERDA (MEDICINE)
Role of tumour necrosis factor alpha (TNFα) in ischaemic and pharmacological pascostandin.
Supervised by A/Prof. S. Luceur

V.B. MAVUMENGWANA (CLINICAL LABORATORY SCIENCES)
Mycothial disulphide reductase as a drug target.
Supervised by A/Prof. D. Steenkamp and A/Prof. D.W. Gammoun

PE. MELARIRI (MEDICINE)
The therapeutic effectiveness of some local Nigerian plants used in the treatment of malaria.
Supervised by A/Prof. P. Smith and Dr B. Campbell

E. MUKWEHOO (HUMAN BIOLOGY)
Regulation of GLUT-4 expression in skeletal muscle cells: the roles of nuclear respiratory factor-1 and calcium/calmodulin dependent protein kinase.
Supervised by A/Prof. E. Ojuka

D.J. PEPPER (MEDICINE)
Clinical deterioration during antituberculosis treatment in a high HIV-1 prevalence setting.
Supervised by Prof. R.J. Wilkinson and Dr G. Maintjes

G.S. PETROS (PUBLIC HEALTH AND FAMILY MEDICINE)
The role of older persons in the management of HIV and AIDS: an assessment of their contribution and support needs in three South African provinces.
Supervised by Prof. M. Ferreira and Professor R. Ehrlich

R.F. RICKARD (SURGERY)
Arterial microanastomosis with size mismatch. A trial of two techniques.
Supervised by Prof. D.A. Hudson

Y. SHEN (CLINICAL LABORATORY SCIENCES)
An investigation into the use of lumpy skin disease virus as a vaccine vector for a potential HIV-1 vaccine.
Supervised by Prof. A.-L. Williamson, A/Prof. E. Shuphard and Dr H. Douglas

L.J. TOWNSEND (PSYCHIATRY AND MENTAL HEALTH)
Risky sexual behaviour among men: HIV surveillance and risk reduction among men who have multiple female sexual partners.
Supervised by Dr C. Mathews

F.K. TREURNICHT (CLINICAL LABORATORY SCIENCES)
Adaptive changes in HIV-1 subtype C proteins during early infection and their effect on disease progression.
Supervised by Prof. C. Williamson
W.I. WAN ISMAIL (CLINICAL LABORATORY SCIENCES)
Molecular basis of insulin resistance induced by antiretroviral drugs
Supervised by Professor T.S. Pillay

M.L.Y. WATKINS (MEDICINE)
Cellular immunity of naïve and BCG vaccinated neonates.
Supervised by Professor G. Kaplan

PATENTS

FILED APPLICATIONS


GRANTED


DEPARTMENT OF ANAESTHESIA

CHAPTERS IN BOOKS


ARTICLES IN PEER-REVIEWED JOURNALS


STEWART WINS TWO PRESTIGIOUS AWARDS

In recognition of his contribution to welfare-related research, Professor Dan Stein, head of UCT’s Department of Psychiatry and Mental Health, and director of both the Medical Research Council’s Unit on Anxiety and Stress Disorders and UCT’s Brain and Behaviour Initiative, was awarded the prestigious Alan Pifer Research Award. The annual award honours UCT researchers whose work has contributed to the advancement and welfare of South Africa’s disadvantaged people.

Stein’s award-winning research focuses on the psychobiology and management of anxiety disorders, including post-traumatic stress disorder and obsessive-compulsive disorder. His work ranges from basic neuroscience all the way through to epidemiological and cross-cultural research.

In addition, the world’s largest global psychopharmacology organisation, the Collegium Internationale Neuro-Psychopharmacologicum (CINP) has awarded its CINP Ethics in Psychopharmacology prize to Professor Stein for his work on the philosophy of psychiatry and psychopharmacology. Stein has published a range of articles on the subject, and his recently released book, Philosophy of Psychopharmacology, is arguably the first extended text to focus on the intersection between philosophy and psychopharmacology.

As the founding editor of Philosophy, Ethics, and Humanities in Medicine, one of the first open-access academic journals in the field, Stein helped encourage interest in this area from readers around the world.
CHAPTELS IN BOOKS


MEDICAL BIOGRAPHY PICKS UP UCT BOOK AWARD

Kit Vaughan, emeritus professor of biomedical engineering and director of UCT spin-off company CapeRay, has won the UCT Book Award for 2010 for *Imagining the Elephant: a Biography of Allan MacLeod Cormack*, his ode to the South African-born Nobel laureate.

Cormack, a ‘lowly’ UCT-trained physicist, was co-winner of the 1979 Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine for his computer-assisted tomography (CAT) scanner. His work also inspired a new generation of medical scientists, including Vaughan, who established a medical imaging research group at UCT in 2000, just two years after Cormack’s death, in the latter’s honour.

In the book, Vaughan writes about both Cormack the family man and how his discoveries changed the world. It was clearly a labour of love for Vaughan, who travelled to Boston, Scotland and England to flesh out his research.

The UCT Book Award carries with it a purse of R30,000, which Vaughan has donated to the Allan Cormack Book Fund, established by Cormack’s family to enable science students from disadvantaged backgrounds to purchase text books.

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**REFERENCES**


ARTICLES IN PEER-REVIEWED JOURNALS


Professor Wayne Derman's pioneering work and remarkable contribution to sport and sports medicine was recognised when he scooped a top accolade in the David Awards 2010.

Derman, a professor of sports science and sports medicine at the Sports Science Institute of South Africa, won the Blue Label Telecoms Award for his Considerable Contribution to Sport, along with Dr Shane Dorfman, a karate world champion.

Derman’s career has focused on the research, teaching and clinical service of sport medicine, making a considerable local and international impact. He has served as chief medical officer for the South African team to the Sydney 2000 Olympics and the Athens 2004 Olympics and, in 2008, as medical officer for the South African Paralympic team to Beijing.

“When I started in this career, it was a lesser-known discipline and specialty within the field of medicine,” he explains. “I have enjoyed being one of the pioneers, and am passionate about my chosen career.”


HUNIG, T., LUDER, F., ELFLEIN, K., GOGISHVILI, T., FROHLICH, M., GULER, R., CUTLER, A. AND BROMBACKER, F. 2010. CD28 and IL-6: two heavyweights controlling the balance between immunity and inflammation. *Medical Microbiology and Immunology*, 199(S1): 239–246. [IIDM] [IDRU]


UCT’s Professors Bongani Mayosi and Karen Sliva have been named as international scholars to the Population Health Research Institute (PHRI) at McMaster University, Canada, paving the way for further research in the population studies of heart disease in South Africa.

Mayosi, head of the Department of Medicine, and Sliva, director of the Hatter Cardiovascular Research Institute, are among the latest recipients of the PHRI award, made to “highly productive and successful researchers of international distinction, and long-standing collaborators of the PHRI”.

Mayosi has been collaborating with executive director Professor Salim Yusuf and his team of researchers at the PHRI, one of the world’s leading research institutes in cardiovascular disease, for five years.

Sliva, meanwhile, looks forward to the access that UCT researchers will have to the particular skills of the population study centre in Canada, which will allow them to set up very large, high-quality research projects in low-resource areas.

Sliva has been working with Yusuf, one of the world’s most distinguished researchers in population studies, for more than a decade. They collaborated on the renowned Interheart study, among others, one of the landmark studies on risk factors leading to myocardial infarction, or heart attack.


UYTTENHOVE, C., BROMBACHER, F. AND VAN SNICK, J. 2010. TGF-B interactions with IL-1 family members trigger IL-4-independent IL-9 production by mouse CD4 + T cells. European Journal of Immunology, 40: 2230–2255. [IIDMM]


IIDMM — Institute of Infectious Disease and Molecular Medicine. Also see page 43.

OCCG — Medical Research Council/UCT Oesophageal Cancer Research Group. Also see page 47.

IIDRU — Medical Research Council/UCT Immunology of Infectious Diseases Research Unit. Also see page 43.
Looking Out for the Genes

UCT’s Associate Professor Malcolm Collins and Dr Mike Posthumus won the prize for the best poster presentation at the International Scientific Tendinopathy Symposium, held in Umeå, Sweden, which attracts the cream of the world’s researchers in the field.

The poster award also cements the reputation of the Medical Research Council/UCT Research Unit for Exercise Science and Sports Medicine, where Collins and Posthumus are based, as world leaders in the study of the genetic factors related to the condition. It’s a topic that the pair covered in all seven of their oral and poster presentations at the symposium, such as in their poster, A potential link between Achilles tendinopathy risk and endurance running ability. In that study, Posthumus, Collins and Professor Martin Schwellnus identified a genetic variant – previously shown to predispose some people to Achilles tendinopathy – that is also associated with performance.

Other than the poster award, the study also drew interest from other delegates at the Umeå symposium. “It’s always been suspected; and people wrote about the possibility that there is a genetic component to the condition,” says Collins. “But we’ve been the first, internationally, to actually identify the genetic elements that alter your risk for tendinopathy.”

Dr Mike Posthumus (left) and Associate Professor Malcolm Collins took a long, hard look at the genetic factors that predispose runners to a condition known as tendinopathy.


Peer-reviewed published conference proceedings


CONTACT DETAILS
Tel: +27 21 406 6401
Fax: +27 21 406 6323
E-mail: marilyn.solomons@uct.ac.za
Web: http://www.uct.ac.za/faculties/health/departments/shrs/

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN BIOLOGY

CHAPTERS IN BOOKS


ARTICLES IN PEER-REVIEWED JOURNALS


AGINSKY K.D. AND NOAKES, T.D. 2010. Why it is difficult to detect an illegally bowled cricket delivery with either the naked eye or usual two-dimensional video analysis. British Journal of Sports Medicine, 44: 420–425. [ESSM]


Dr Hanna-Andrea Rother’s work on the consequences of the use of street pesticides on children’s health and health policy has earned her UCT’s 2010 Distinguished Social Responsiveness Award. Rother is programme leader of Health Risk Management in the Centre for Occupational and Environmental Health Research in the School of Public Health and Family Medicine. The award is valued at R25,000 and is open to staff whose activities benefit not only UCT, but also an external community.

Rother’s pioneering work in this previously unresearched area of public health has already influenced state policy. Armed with her research, she challenged government and NGOs with possible solutions to the use of illegal and highly toxic pesticides among the urban poor in Cape Town’s peri-urban communities.

Her project was one of co-operation. A community NGO co-initiated the project and participated in the research design. A Child Pesticide Policy reference group (representing the community, child health practitioners, researchers and government) was established to discuss the research process, findings, problems and interventions.

Rother’s award will be used to further her social responsiveness initiative, and showcases the valuable contribution soft-funded academic research makes to UCT.

### Peer-Reviewed Published Conference Proceedings


DEPARTMENT OF MEDICINE

AUTHORED BOOKS


CHAPTERS IN BOOKS


ARTICLES IN PEER-REVIEWED JOURNALS


NOAKES CLEARS THE 10000 MILESTONE

Professor Tim Noakes, UCT’s Discovery Health Professor of Exercise and Sports Medicine, who established the Exercise Science and Sports Medicine (ESSM) research unit in the early 1980s, has recently racked up 10000 citations, according to the citations-tracking database Web of Knowledge.

Noakes is an NRF A-rated researcher, who also has an h-index — a measure of the productivity and impact of the published work of a scientist or scholar — of 53. This means that, for now, 53 of his articles have each been cited at least 53 times. That best illustrates the message that Noakes is trying to pass on to students at ESSM. “It doesn’t matter how good an article is; if it doesn’t get cited, it’s not going to be very influential,” he says.


Associate Professor Keertan Dheda has been named the winner of the 2010 Union Scientific Award of the International Union against Tuberculosis and Lung Disease (IUATLD). This international award is made annually to a researcher under the age of 45 who has made an outstanding contribution to the field of tuberculosis and/or lung disease.

Dheda, director of the Lung Infection and Immunity Unit in the Department of Medicine, was singled out for his internationally cited and acclaimed research, which focuses mainly on poverty-related lung disease, including TB, HIV and pneumonia. The IUATLD lauded Dheda for his expertise in combating drug-resistant TB, and for his part in developing a programme that offers training and clinical services at the two designated hospitals in the Northern and Western Cape that deal with extensively drug-resistant tuberculosis.

But, Dheda points out, the IUATLD award is a dedication to a team of collaborators, and to the hard work done in Africa.

“It is inspiring that all members of this team have been recognised for their hard work,” he says. “It’s also great advocacy for TB and diseases of poverty – and significant that such an award comes to Africa, given that we are relatively under-resourced and poorly funded compared to many other researchers.”


**MEINTJES, G. AND WILKINSON, R.J. 2010.** Undiagnosed active tuberculosis in HIV-infected patients commencing antiretroviral therapy (Editorial). *Clinical Infectious Diseases*, 51(7): 830–832. [IIDMM]


UCT surgeon Dr Elmi Muller and her team received world attention following their historic transplants of kidneys from HIV-positive donors to HIV-positive recipients, which were featured in The New England Journal of Medicine.

Muller, based in the Department of Surgery and a full-time surgeon at Groote Schuur Hospital, is the clinical researcher who initiated and drove the project. For the transplants, she worked with Professor Marc Mendelson of the Division of Infectious Diseases, Professor Del Kahn of the Department of Surgery and Dr Zunaid Barday of the Division of Nephrology to ensure that all clinical aspects of this complicated procedure were covered.

The chief concern in the transplantation of a kidney from an HIV-positive donor to an HIV-positive recipient, explains Muller, is the potential risk of ‘superinfection’. Every care was taken, however, says Muller. All organs came from donors who had received no antiretroviral therapy, ie are ‘ART-naïve’, and had no history of opportunistic infections or cancer, or evidence of kidney disease on biopsy.

In all cases the transplant recipients enjoyed good renal function after the transplant, without the need for dialysis.


Vaid, A., Ranjan, R., Smythe, W., Hoppe, H.C. And Sharma, P. 2010. PIP3K, a phosphatidylinositol-3 kinase from Plasmodium falciparum, is exported to the host erythrocyte and is involved in hemoglobin trafficking. Blood, 115(12): 2500–2507.


DEPARTMENT OF OBSTETRICS & GYNAECOLOGY

ARTICLES IN PEER-REVIEWED JOURNALS


HDMM – Institute of Infectious Disease and Molecular Medicine. Also see page 43.

CONTACT DETAILS
Tel: +27 21 406 6117
Fax: +27 21 448 6921
E-mail: Jennifer.Heunis@uct.ac.za
Web: http://web.uct.ac.za/depts/doogie/

PRIMARY HEALTH CARE DIRECTORATE

ARTICLES IN PEER-REVIEWED JOURNALS


CONTACT DETAILS
Tel: +27 21 406 6761
Fax: +27 21 448 5653
E-mail: cha.johnston@uct.ac.za
Web: http://www.primaryhealthcare.uct.ac.za

DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHIATRY & MENTAL HEALTH

CHAPTERS IN BOOKS


ARTICLES IN PEER-REVIEWED JOURNALS

AE-NGIBISE, K., COOPER, S., ADIBOKAH, E., AKPALU, B., LUND, C., DOKU, V. AND MHAPP RESEARCH PROGRAMME CONSORTIUM. 2010. ‘Whether you like it or not people with mental problems are going to go to them’: a qualitative exploration into the widespread use of traditional and faith healers in the provision of mental health care patients in Cape Town, South Africa. International Review of Psychiatry, 22(6): 558–567.


UCT’s Associate Professor Andrew Bosch has become one of a few to see the result of years of toil in a lab make it into a commercial product – a protein-based muscle-recovery product known as PeptoSport®.

The drink resulted from Bosch’s work with athletes at the UCT/Medical Research Council Research Unit for Exercise Science and Sports Medicine (ESSM), and a research interest in the role of carbohydrates and protein in sports performance.

His labour has now been applied to PeptoSport®, a muscle-recovery drink manufactured by DSM Nutritional Products South Africa as part of its Pepto range.

Other than having to strike a balance between the respective amounts of carbs and protein in the drink, Bosch also included a particular type of protein known as protein hydrolysate in his formulation. His cocktail was specifically developed for a research project investigating muscle recovery from hard training.

He put his protein mixture through a litmus test when he and his team ran a study with the Springbok Rugby Sevens, who had volunteered their services and bodies to ESSM. Using muscle soreness and fatigue as a marker for recovery, Bosch was able to show that protein hydrolysates did improve post-training recovery, particularly in the quadriceps and calf muscles.

Following the good results achieved, DSM was keen to join forces with UCT to produce and market the drink, and the two groups signed a licensing agreement.

Associate Professor Andrew Bosch and PeptoSport®, a sports drink that he developed through his work at UCT.

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SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH & FAMILY MEDICINE

CHAPTERS IN BOOKS


ARTICLES IN PEER-REVIEWED JOURNALS


Cardiologist Dr Neil Hendricks of the Division of Cardiology, has been appointed as UCT and Groote Schuur Hospital’s first Life Healthcare Electrophysiology Fellow.

The fellowship paves the way for South African training of cardiologists in diagnosing electrophysiological conditions of the heart, and performing surgery on patients suffering from such diseases. Electrophysiology, the fastest growing area of cardiology worldwide, relates to rhythmic disorders of the heart, or arrhythmia, a group of conditions characterised by abnormal electrical activity in the heart.

Up to now, such programmes have only been offered overseas, an arrangement that often seduced cardiologists to remain abroad upon completion, and thus contributed to the country’s brain drain.

Under the tutelage of Professor Andrzej Okreglicki, who trained in the USA and the UK before returning to Cape Town to share his expertise, Hendricks will spend two years honing his skills in electrophysiology.

Life Healthcare has provided R1.2 million over two years for the fellowship, with the balance coming from the Facilities Board of Groote Schuur Hospital.


KENYON, C., BOULLE, A.M., BADRI, M. AND ASSELVAN, V. 2010. “I don’t use a condom (with my regular partner) because I know that I’m faithful, but with everyone else I do”: the cultural and socioeconomic determinants of sexual partner concurrency in young South Africans. *SAHARS: Journal of Social Aspects of HIV/AIDS*, 7(3): 35–43. [CIDER]


NEW FUNDING OPENS THE RESEARCH GATES

UCT’s South African Tuberculosis Vaccine Initiative (SATVI) is once again the recipient of major tuberculosis (TB) research funding.

SATVI’s co-director, Professor Willem Hanekom, was awarded a $5.3-million research grant by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, specifically to learn why some persons exposed to the tuberculosis germ – *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* – develop TB, while others do not.

Worldwide nine million people develop TB annually, and 1.7 million die. Only 10% of people who are infected with the TB germ develop lung disease. If successful, the research project can make a significant contribution to the fight against TB.

“Our first aim is to learn what to measure in blood to indicate that an exposed person will develop TB disease,” says Hanekom. “This will allow targeted intervention with antibiotics.

“The knowledge gained from our research should also guide development of new vaccines, to prevent TB altogether.”

This three-year project will bring together some of the world’s best scientists from Seattle, Stanford and San Diego in the US, and The Netherlands. The study will be led by Hanekom. The research team will analyse stored blood samples already collected from 6363 adolescents. Nearly 50% of these adolescents were found to be infected with the TB germ at enrolment.

Some developed TB during two years of follow-up, but most remained healthy.

Stored blood will now be retrieved to look for differences in immune responses between those that developed TB and those who remained healthy. The researchers will use cutting edge technology for their search for these “correlates of risk of TB disease”.


DEPARTMENT OF RADIATION MEDICINE

ARTICLES IN PEER-REVIEWED JOURNALS


IIDMM — Institute of Infectious Disease and Molecular Medicine. Also see page 43.

CONTACT DETAILS
Tel: +27 21 404 4263/5
Fax: +27 21 404 5259
E-mail: Berry.Neumann@uct.ac.za
Web: http://www.health.uct.ac.za

DEPARTMENT OF SURGERY

AUTHORED BOOKS


EDITED BOOKS


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