SEFAKO MAKGATHO
HEALTH SCIENCES UNIVERSITY

FOCUS on SMU

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Introducing Prof Eunice Seekoe,

the newly appointed Deputy Vice-Chancellor, for Teaching, Learning and Community Engagements.

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2019/2020 SMU SRC ELECTIONS

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Gauteng Health MEC Bandile Masuku unveils a new Residence and Training Facility to improve patient health care experience in Jubilee Hospital

- Maditsi Matlala

Dr Bandile Masuku, the Gauteng Member of the Executive Council (MEC) for Health, also an alumnus of the SMU, recently cut the orange ribbon and received loud cheers and applause when he opened a new residence and a training facility at the Jubilee Hospital (JH), in Hammanskraal, North of Pretoria.

The multi-million-rand residence and training facility will accommodate 150 students who will be placed in Jubilee Hospital for clinical exposure purposes. SMU trained medical students will occupy one of the sections in the residence. Students that were trained in Cuba, who are benefitting from the Nelson Mandela Fidel Castro Programme (NMFCP) will also be accommo-dated in one of the sections of the building. Allied health students, namely physiotherapy, occupational therapy, nursing, radiography, pharmacy, human nutrition, speech language audiology and pathology will also be accommodated in the remaining sections of the residence.

Dr Masuku pointed out that the erection of these facilities in Jubilee Hospital forms part of the plans of the Department of Health and Premier of Gauteng, Mr David Makhura, to improve patient experience when accessing health care. Jubilee is one of the 10 hospitals in Gauteng, that have been earmarked to benefit from the infrastructure development programme to make sure that the community of Hammanskraal and surrounding areas have access to good quality health care.

He said that its location, near the N1 Highway, makes it the first port of call when it comes to treatment of the many who sustain road accident injuries and trauma on this major national road. He added that the hospital's strategic location adds more work load on the staff and facilities that are already under strain dealing with day to day cases.

Plans are underway to build a bigger JH and to build a new hospital in Soshanguve to accommodate the ever increasing demands for access to health care and to lighten the work load that Dr George Mukhari Academic Hospital (DGMAH) handle. These plans are in response to the priorities of the Gauteng's Department of Health to improve staff morale, improve patient experience and to stabilise leadership, in these hospitals.

Opinion Piece

Gender Based Violence – a menace that needs to be confronted and defeated

- Dr Moreoagae Randa

Gender-based violence (GBV) is a global phenomenon deeply rooted in gender inequality, and continues to be one of the most notable human rights violations prevalent in every society and worldwide. GBV is violence directed against a person because of their gender, both women and men experience gender-based violence but the majority of victims are women and girls.

South Africa is rated among the highest in the world in terms of inequality and sexual violence for women. Cultural and societal norms greatly influence human behaviour, and as such, can also influence violent behaviour. Violence against women is regarded as a normal attitude or remains hidden or tacitly condoned, therefore men demonstrate their masculine dominant role and supremacy over their women with especially the rural women facing all types of violation in their life. It is evident that men use their power to intimidate women, and believe that they have the right to abuse women and children

Recently, there has been a marked increase in the rate of GBV including femicide country wide; and Institutions of Higher Learning are no exception. The latest is the attack of the University of Cape Town student Uyinene Mrwetyana, who was tortured, raped and murdered by the post office worker outside University grounds and this incident shook the South African society. Her body was burnt and buried in the township; and this confirmed that GBV and femicide are a broader national problem in South Africa. This has led to many people and civil society organizations protesting country wide calling for an end to the violence.

The modern xenophobic attacks towards our brothers and sisters are also not acceptable. It is through this violence that innocent lives have been lost, an end has been put to a bright future.

Rape, targeting young adolescents and women is a serious problem; which also has a significant negative impact to the South African economy. Not only is this a barricade to economic growth, but those who are subjected to this kind of violence are destroyed as a people and are haunted by these horrific experiences. Some are not able to rise above the incidents and are therefore destroyed for life.

South Africa is a signatory to a number of international treaties on GBV, and strong legislative framework, for example the Sexual Offences Act (2007) and the Domestic Violence Act (DVA) (1998). To add on that, South Africa has the most progressive Constitution in the world regarding gender equality, yet the country is the epicentre of some of the most gruesome and brutal cases of violence against women and children. It is the obligation of the state to protect and promote all human rights of all citizens, therefore, due diligence must be exercised to prevent violence against women and children,

to investigate its occurrence and to punish the perpetrators. Doing so will provide protection to women and children, who are the main victims, and will ensure that they enjoy their human rights and freedom.

For us to address GBV, a multi-faceted approach and commitment is to be followed. We need long term coordinated efforts from all the stakeholders; and this includes law enforcement agencies, civil society, the government, private individuals, non-governmental organisations, justice system, departments of health and of education. In addition, men and boys should be actively engaged in campaigns and the planning of programmes aimed at changing the negative attitudes and behaviours that perpetuate violence, and the platform should be utilised to bring about sustained social and cultural change.

GBV is everybody's business, we therefore need to do our best to engage everyone to promote a violence free society whereby all the mentioned structures in our society aim to promote equality, stability and peace.

Dr Moreoagae Randa is a Lecturer in the SMU Nursing Science Department *(She writes in her personal capacity)*

Giving General Practitioners an opportunity to keep abreast of latest clinical trends

- Maditsi Matlala

Prof Martin Mpe

The Department of Cardiology (DoC)) recently presented a very stimulating refresher course for health workers, at the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) International Convention Centre. The event was attended by a number of General practitioners, majority of whom were Sefako Makgatho Health Sciences University graduates.

By attending the refresher course, the general practitioners are fulfilling their professional obligations as members of the Health Professions Council of South Africa (HPCSA) as they are required to participate in continuous development programmes offered by HPCSA accredited providers. For participating in the refresher course, the general practitioners individually earned 25 CPD Points and certificates of attendance, which will serve as proof that they are complying with the HPCSA prescripts.

They had an opportunity to brush up on their clinical skills and keep abreast of latest medical trends.

The topics that the many experts presented on, were very wide ranging - from managing diabetes, haematological emergencies, obstetrics emergencies, hypertension in pregnancy, managing psychiatry patients, TB/HIV management, managing poisoning, heart failure update, to mention a few.
The topic, “Does size matter” which was presented by Prof Etienne Kok, the Urologist, stole the show. He handled this controversial topic so well, with a lot of satire, and had the captive audience absolutely in stitches, his presentation lasted for an hour.

The topics covered were initially identified by the general practitioners. They put forward their topic proposals and the DoC, on its part, had the honour to identify suitable speakers and invited them to come to present at the refresher course.

''The refresher course is very good for us to attend because we are actually refreshing on what we learnt as MBChB students and being kept abreast of latest developments. There is a lot of research which is being conducted from which we are able to learn about latest research which enables us to manage our patients better. It is a chance to learn more. As General practitioners, we are the first pot of call for our patients,” said Dr Sibongile Nzuza, who graduated in 1991 with a Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery (MBChB) graduate aid.

As the majority of those who attended were SMU alumni, it was also an opportunity for former classmates and friends to reconnect, to reminisce about their time at the university, the highlights and low lights.

SMU NEWS BRIEFS

Congratulations to the SMU Student Volleyball Team for clinching the silver medal, during the annual Tshwane Indoor Volleyball League Finals 2019.

As part of their practical syllabus, the Biology ECP II group (School of Science and Technology) was tasked by their lecturer, Ms Ntebo Lion, to construct models representing the Human Circulatory and Respiratory Systems. The students had to work in groups and each individual had to also prepare a speech for presentation in front of their class mates and a panel of evaluators.

The groups had to demonstrate how each system works, its relation to other parts of the body and explain the limitations on their models. The students were asked to use recycled materials to demonstrate their understanding of anatomy and physiology.

Congratulations to Dr. Antonio Lentoor - Senior Lecturer: Department of Clinical Psychology, for receiving the certificate of excellence in the best poster presentation. His presentation was on "Cognitive deficits in perinatally acquired HIV-positive children on cART in SA". Earlier in the year, he also received a certificate for an Emerging Researcher from the Royal College of Psychiatrists SA-ACAPAP Research Development Workshop. In addition, he also received the Discovery Health Clinical Excellence Award Poster (Honourable Mention).

Mr Maluleke,
a beneficiary of organ donation clinches medals at the World Transplant Games

- By Tumelo Moila

France Maluleke

Mr Frans Maluleke, a Medical Technologist at NHLS based at SMU, clinched a silver medal in 5km power walk (35:03:09) and bronze medal in petanque singles, representing South Africa at the World Transplant Games (WTG) in Newcastle, United Kingdom.

"I participate in the games to promote awareness, educate and inform the general public with regard to the need for organ, tissue donation and transplantation. In conclusion, I would like to thank my liver donor, who is my brother, George Maluleke. He gave me second chance in life and my wife, Margaret Maluleke who is supporting me all the way. May God bless them," said Maluleke.

Although he is the first person in his family to get a transplant, his journey began when he had a Kidney Transplant at Jacaranda Hospital, Pretoria in 2010. While recovering, he was introduced to the South African Transplant Sports Association (SATSA), the organisation that organizes and assist team South Africa in the games. There is a lot of work that goes into preparation of the games. But before leaving, he had to do a lot of tests to meet the qualifying standards of the games that include seeing a Nephrologist.

The games bring people that have had transplant operations to meet and compete against each other. Friendships and relationships are created in the process as well as exchanging badges and contacts.

The world transplant games are held every two years. A national team to participate in the world transplant games is selected from participants who qualify at the South African national games. "I celebrate my gift of life through the sport and train to meet the qualifying standard to participate in the WTG with SMU athletic club. In 2015, I was selected and represented Team South Africa in Argentina where I got bronze medals in both singles and doubles petanques. Maluleke also told Focus that he further participated in Spain in 2017 where he received a silver medal for a 5km power walk.