SEFAKO MAKGATHO
HEALTH SCIENCES UNIVERSITY

FOCUS on SMU

NEWSLETTER / **Volume 2 / 2nd Edition** | *February 2018*

Vice-Chancellor's Research Excellence Awards 2017

List of Winners

CATEGORY

Best Established Researcher in the School

- **School of Medicine**
  Prof I Govender
- **School of Oral Health Sciences**
  Prof RAG Khammissa
- **School of Health Care Sciences**
  Prof ES Madiba
- **School of Pharmacy**
  Prof JC Meyer
- **School of Science & Technology**
  Prof JO Olowoyo

Best Overall Established Researcher in the University
Prof LM Seheri

Best Overall Female Researcher in the University
Prof JC Meyer

Some of the Recepients

SMU & National Upcoming Events

March 2018

17	Alumni Limpopo chapter launch
21	Human Rights Day
30	Good Friday

May 2018

09 - 11	Graduation Ceremony
18	Open Day

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Antimicrobial Stewardship Workshop

By Khathutshelo Negota

School of Pharmacy hosted the Antimicrobial Stewardship (AMS) workshop for public health care centre institutions that included tertiary, district and community health care centres. The aim of the Enhancing Appropriate Antimicrobial and Vaccine Use via Mobile Health and Other Techniques in the Republic of South Africa (ENAABLERS) workshop was to teach the principles of AMS and to conduct a study that involves the entire country on AMS.

Being the first presenter, Prof Natalie Schellack spoke on the topic of 'Understanding and classifying microorganisms'. “Our bodies are not on our own up to 40 trillion bacteria and other microbes call us home. This collection of microscopic life that exists within and on us is called the human microbiome,” said Prof Schellack, Associate Professor and Acting Head of the Division of Clinical Pharmacy, School of Pharmacy. She continued to emphasise the importance of bacterial infection prevention. Thus referring to an article of a famous Scottish butcher who killed pensioners, just by not washing his hands.

The workshop which was the first of its kind in the country was attended by 145 AMS champions from all over the country, representing six provinces. “This workshop was eye opening and educational. There is a need for workshops like this, to create awareness for the various research and studies occurring out there”, said Mr Simon Malope, SMU Alumni and Pharmacist at Tshwane District Hospital. He continued to congratulate the organisers of the workshop, and pleaded that this workshop happen every year.

The irrational use of antibiotics, including overuse for minor infections such as Respiratory Tract Infections (RTIs) and misuse, is a key driver in the spread of Antimicrobial resistance (AMR) across countries including South Africa. AMR a major threat to global public health is currently causing 50,000 deaths a year. ”The more you use antibiotics, the more resistance. This is seen more in the hospital wards, for example the Intensive Care Unit,” said Prof Andre Gous, Acting Dean of School of Pharmacy. He continued to show us the various antibiotics, side effects, if they are still used or not, and then dividing them into various generations.

Prof Natalie Shellack presenting during the workshop

“There was a need to digitalise data collection. And the PPS Survey App comes in to remove the hideous paperwork,” said Danie Kruger, Part time Lecture in Clinical Pathology. The app then transfers the data collected into an excel spreadsheet for further analysis. The app is web-based and a researcher can access the data from their laptops. The form is divided into two fields. Patient related data and the other is the medical related data.

“I hope Primary Health Care workers can attend the event in numbers in the following workshop. They are the first in line for many rural areas in the country”, said Cecilia Mokgalong, a specialist in Anastasia from the Capricorn District (Limpopo). At the end of the workshop, attendees were awarded with certificates.

SMU goes international

Exchange Programme Beneficiaries

By Refiloe Ndhlovu

SMU together with DGMAH soared to greater heights as they joined hands with FK Norway (Fredskorpset Norway) in a healthcare student exchange program. Two local nurses, Colisiwe Ribombo and Karabo Maimane, went to Haukeland University Hospital in Norway for a period of six months, two International nurses; Dr Bjørn Christensen (Specialist Surgeon) and Mr Olav Posch (Nurse) from Haukeland University Hospital are based at DGMAH for one year.

FK Norway is a government agency in Norway that funds and facilitates mutual personnel exchange Programme between Norway, Africa, Asia and Latin America. The essence of the Programme is to build a relationship with the above-mentioned institutions as well as reconnecting with SMU alumni who are based in Norway.

Ms Maimane who lives in Ga-Rankuwa said, "I aspire to be a trauma unit manager, to educate the upcoming nurses. The number of trauma cases are so high at DGMAH and that inspires me to learn more and be better as a trauma nurse."

"My passion about my job and desire to learn about new things, my devotion to plough back knowledge to my hospital unit, are the things that my Unit manager identified in order to choose me for this Programme," said Ms Ribombo.

The two participants from Norway will get to know more about managing patients with multiple stabs, assaults and gunshot wounds, as they do not experience them extensively in their area. The local nurses will learn more about Trauma unit management at Haukeland Hospital.

Prof Chris de Beer, SMU Vice-Chancellor, congratulated the participants and wished them luck, "we look forward to more exchange student programmes between SMU and Fk Norway," he said as he concluded the launch meeting.

IPECP week for final year Healthcare students

By Refiloe Ndhlovu

SMU Students

The School of Health Care Sciences (SHCS) hosted the first comprehensive Inter-professional Education and Collaborative Practice (IPECP) programme. The purpose of IPECP is to help students to clarify their own roles and to see where they have a unique contribution and where there are role overlaps. Also work collaboratively to improve the health outcomes of the patient's that they treat.

All the final year students from the SHCS attended together with students from School of Medicine and School of Pharmacy. The week was planned and developed by a community of practice which comprises group of students with a shared interest in a subject who meet on a regular basis and learn how to do it better as they interact regularly. Students from different departments who are interested in IPECP were invited to join. The criteria for selecting the schools was that they have to train healthcare professionals.

Students were divided into two cohorts – cohort one had final year students from occupational therapy, physiotherapy, human nutrition and dietetics and speech language therapy and audiology and half of the sixth year medicine students. Cohort two had the rest of the medicine students as well as students from nursing and pharmacy. The introduction to the IPECP week started with Mr Muzi Tshabalala and Mrs Magda Botha who are both lecturers in the

Continues on page 4

SHCS, presented 'Introduction to IPECP' after which students did an exercise on role clarification. Mr Henk Havenga from the Skills Centre presented an introductory lecture on disaster management. Students had to do a practical exercise in their small groups where they had to allocate four victims according to the triage system.

Four hundred and fifty students attended the IPECP week programme. Forty-two facilitators, twenty two and twenty respectively from cohort one and two, representing different professions. Each facilitator had approximately ten students in their group for the week. During the rest of the week the students did role plays with simulated patients where they learned more about teamwork. Students also worked on a self-selected project on either a patient safety or ethical issue and presented this to their peers, facilitators and representatives from management.

Students and facilitators gave feedback at the end of the week. Approximately 95% of the students gave positive feedback. Students stressed the advantages of having an opportunity to get to know the roles of students of other professions. They gained some insight into the challenges associated with teamwork. The introduction to disaster management was also highly valued.

Some of the students' verbatim comments include, "I realized that more of the things students learn are not taught by lecturers. Thank you for the opportunity, I am a changed someone. This Programme should be kept all the time. It is what we need for the better SA Healthcare. The only change I need is that they must make us do this more often. They can make the whole January IPECP month", said an *anonymous final year Medicine student.

"I would like to thank everyone who participated especially the members of the Community of Practice who were responsible for the planning and implementation of the event," said Mrs Hanlie Pitout, Programme Facilitator.

*Student requested to stay anonymous

Welcome
Prof Clever Ndebele

By Khathutshelo Negota

Professor Clever Ndebele is the new Director of Centre for University Teaching and Learning (CUTL) at SMU. His vision for the University is to see students succeed in their studies and then later contribute to the economic development of the country. "My plan for CUTL is to empower the academics in teaching and learning in higher education. Also to provide academic support to the students, so that they are able to finish their studies within record time," said Prof Ndebele.

Prior to his appointment at SMU, he occupied the same position at the University of Zululand. He has also worked at various universities including, North West University (2015 – 2017); University of Venda (2010 – 2015), University of Fort Hare (2005 – 2010); Zimbabwe Open University (2002 – 2004). With such a wealthy number of years of experience in such different institutions on various levels. "Other projects that I have been involved in include collaborative NRF Projects and I'm a member of the Ministry of Higher Education and Training reference group on extended degree programmes. That is a group that is responsible for evaluating all applications by Universities for extended degree programs", said Prof Ndebele.

Born in Bulawayo (Zimbabwe), his educational journey began when he obtained a Bachelor degree in Education from the University of Zimbabwe in 1997, and then a Masters qualification in 2001. He continued to study at the University of Fort Hare, Rhodes University, and obtaining his PHD in Education from the University of Fort Hare.

He has been involved as an evaluator for the University Teaching Development Grants, also called the University Capacity Development Grants, a group that evaluates the applications for the Universities, the proposals. "The staff at SMU are very passionate about teaching and learning, and there is a need for all of us to engage in conversations on how to teach in our disciplines with our various expertise", he said.

Professor Clever Ndebele

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