



SEFAKO MAKGATHO
HEALTH SCIENCES UNIVERSITY

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SMU Launches an Institutional Repository

Professor Lekan Ayo-Yusuf addressing SMU Community during the launch

By Khathutshelo Negota

The SMU Library and Information Services officially launched its institutional repository during the annual *Open Access Week, an event observed by libraries to promote knowledge about open access amongst researchers and other communities. "The repository is essential infrastructure for the preservation and dissemination of SMU scholarly information and complements the SMU strategic research priorities with specific reference to the priority of research impact. In order for published research to have impact it has to be utilised and cited. This requires global visibility and accessibility via different channels including an accessible online institutional repository," said Professor Lekan Ayo-Yusuf, DVC for Research, Postgraduate Studies and Innovation.

Professor Lekan Ayo-Yusuf addressing SMU Community during the launch Prof. Ayo-Yusuf committed himself to support further Institutional repository development efforts including staffing and advocacy. He declared the SMU institutional repository open and encouraged SMU researchers to embrace and contribute research content to this initiative.

The new institutional repository currently archives only Electronic Thesis and Dissertations (ETDs). In due course, the expectation is that SMU researchers would archive pre and post print research articles, where publishers and copyright terms permit, to promote research visibility globally, increase access to knowledge and facilitate collaboration. The SMU Director of Library and Information Services, Ms Sarah Kibirige stated that the Insti-

SMU & National Upcoming Events

February 2018

- 4 World Cancer Day
- 12 International Epilepsy Day
- 12-16 STI / Condom Week
- 12-16 Pregnancy Awareness Week
- 12-18 National Epilepsy Week
- 16 Healthy Lifestyle Awareness Day
- 23 VC's Research and Teaching Excellence Awards Ceremony



SMU Library Staff members during the launch of the Institutional Repository

tutional Repository offers a stable platform to manage and disseminate the research output and scholarly works of the University in digital form. Material held on the IR can be searched, read, printed and downloaded freely over the internet. The long term goal is to build a growing SMU Open Access collection to enhance the SMU research profile, and institutional ranking.

*Open Access is defined as the "immediate, permanent, free online access to the full text of all referred research journal articles."

More information on the repository can be found on: <http://repository.smu.ac.za>.

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Dr Esther Mokaila - Paediatric Surgeon

By Lekgetho More

Dr Esther Mokaila is one of the first two recently qualified black female paediatric surgeons in South Africa. This great leap of faith to becoming a paediatric surgeon was not a leap she initially wanted to take, however it is the path fate chose for her. "I was an internal medicine medical officer in Johannesburg, Prof Zacharia Koto and Dr Freddy Kgongwana wanted to establish a paediatrics unit at Sefako Makgatho Health Sciences University (SMU). I went for the interview and by default I got the job because people were not interested and it has been a love since then" she says.

Mokaila who graduated in the Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery (MBChB) with SMU in 2008, describes her workload as one that is very hectic and yet exciting. "My Monday to Sunday tasks range from actual ward rounds in both theatre and clinical, academic cases (journals), radiology meetings and being on call" said Mokaila. She further described her work as an exclusive job and she loves babies.

She alluded that SMU played a big role in her road to success and that it is home. "The transitions the university has gone through highlight the institutions progress. I feel like right now there is more attention



paid to academic programmes than never before and we are slowly getting recognised, it is truly a humbling feeling."

Mokaila attributes her success to certain people such as her family, friends, professional mentors, Paediatric fellows and of course the almighty God. She advised prospective health professionals to be humble and that knowing your patients is key. "It is not always about the cutting but about knowing your patient and what he or she needs. The cutting is just a bonus service" she says passionately.



The Gifted Hands of Dr Mpho Magidi -

By Refiloe Ndhlovu

Dr Mpho Magidi (36) from Makwarela in Venda, Limpopo, has recently qualified as one of the two black female paediatric surgeon despite the challenges that comes with it. Paediatric Surgery is still growing in our country and there are few employment opportunities. "I had tried paediatric surgery before but it seemed impossible to get into. I was almost in tears one day when I met a former colleague of mine who said to me "by the way, they are looking for paediatric surgery registrars at SMU." I applied the very next day and the rest is history". Today she is a paediatric surgery registrar.

A woman with truly gifted hands and a heart of gold, she holds the following qualifications: MBChB from UCT- 2005 and FC Paediatric Surgery (SA) – 2017. She is amongst the few paediatric surgeons in the country. "I do not think I fully comprehend what it means to have achieved this degree. The excitement of people around me often

surprises me. I feel honoured to have become one of the few Paediatric Surgeons in the country," says Dr Magidi.

Expressing her love for kids, she says this opportunity could not have come at a better time than now. "I love children. I have always enjoyed working with and helping children from different angles of life," she said. She has two biological kids whom she does not cease to adore.

Asked what more she would like to achieve, she replied, "I have definitely not arrived. There is still a lot to learn and equip oneself further. I owe it to those who are behind me to teach them as I have been taught. On that note, I would like to thank my consultants who trained me. My head of department Prof Marcisz, Prof van Niekerk, Prof Koto and lastly but not least, my immediate tutor, Dr Nyaweleni Tshifularo, who taught me daily without tiring and believed in me when I was at my lowest" .

A typical week in her everyday job involves doing rounds in the paediatrics ward, elective theatre list, academic & radiology meetings and emergency theatre .

Dr Magidi, whose first name is Mpho, meaning a gift, said, "We have been honoured by God to care for people at their most vulnerable states. Patients (and parents) are relying on us, often times without fully understanding what we are doing, yet they trust. We owe it to them to give the best care we can."

Listeriosis Factsheet

The National Institute for Communicable Disease (NICD) is reporting a very large outbreak of Listeriosis in South Africa. To date there have been over 550 cases reported, mostly in Gauteng. Here are some facts that you should know.

What is listeriosis?

Listeriosis is a serious infection caused by eating food contaminated with the bacterium called Listeria Monocytogenes. Although there are other types of Listeria, most cases of listeriosis are caused by Listeria Monocytogenes. Listeria is found in soil and water so vegetables can become contaminated from the soil or from manure used as fertilizer and even animals can carry the bacterium without appearing ill, and can then contaminate foods of animal origin, such as meats and dairy products.

What is the Incubation Period?

The incubation period (time between ingestion and the onset of symptoms) for Listeria ranges from three to 70 days and averages 21 days. This is important to note. So it does not always show up immediately

Who is at Risk?

Pregnant women, elderly – anyone over 65 years of age, anyone with a weak immune system due to other health complications. Newborns usually contract the diseases from their mothers in utero.

How is it Treated?

Listeriosis can be diagnosed by a blood test and is treated with antibiotics.

What are the Symptoms?

A person with listeriosis may develop fever, muscle aches, and sometimes nausea or diarrhea. If infection spreads to the nervous system, symptoms such as headache, stiff neck, confusion, loss of balance, or convulsions can occur.

In children, the elderly or people with other health problems and a weak immune system, Listeria can invade the central nervous system, causing meningitis and/or encephalitis (brain infection). Infected pregnant women ordinarily experience only a mild, flu-like illness; however, infection during pregnancy can lead to miscarriage, infection of the newborn or even stillbirth.

What can I do to prevent getting the illness?

- Listeria can grow at refrigerated temperatures and so you must consume perishable and ready-to-eat foods as soon as possible and definitely by the use by date.
- Listeria is killed by heating so make sure you thoroughly cook raw food from animal sources, such as beef, pork, or poultry.
- Listeria occurs in soil, make sure you wash raw vegetables thoroughly before eating.
- Keep uncooked meats separate from vegetables and from cooked foods and ready-to-eat foods.

- Pasteurisation kills listeria so avoid unpasteurized (raw) milk or foods made from unpasteurized milk.
- Practice proper hygiene in your kitchen by washing hands, knives, and cutting boards after handling uncooked foods.

What Foods could be at risk of Listeria?

Listeria has been found in a variety of raw foods, such as uncooked meats and unpasteurized (raw) milk or foods made from unpasteurized milk. Listeria is killed by pasteurization and cooking; however, in certain ready-to-eat foods, like hot dogs and cold cuts from the deli counter, contamination may occur after cooking but before packaging.

The foods in the chart below are being considered by The National Institute for Communicable Diseases (NICD): Ref: <http://www.nicd.ac.za/wp-content/uploads/2017/10/Listeria->

Foods which could present a Listeriosis Risk



Items marked with * indicate foods which are most often implicated in outbreaks around the world
Ref: <http://www.nicd.ac.za/wp-content/uploads/2017/10/Listeria-Case-Investigation-Form.docx>

*The Factsheet is compiled by The National Institute for Communicable Diseases (NICD).

Say Hello to Ms Precious Pheelwane - SMU FM Station Manager

By Lekgetho More

At a tender age of 31, Ms Precious Pheelwane from Carletonville compassed the radio space with the utmost professionalism. Although she is a graduate in Economic Management Analysis majoring in Economics with Tshwane University of Technology (TUT), she possesses other qualifications in relation to her field of work such as a certificate in Community Radio Broadcasting with the University of Pretoria, a certificate in Programme Management with The Media Connection Academy and other certificates in Advance Radio Management Course with Wits Radio Academy.

Pheelwane's journey in the radio fraternity began in 2008 as a radio presenter at Tshwane FM (then Top

Continue on Page 4

Stereos) as a student at TUT. She then through hard work, dedication, persistence and intensified training became a multi-faceted asset to Tshwane FM by serving various positions such as content producing, field reporting, news and sports reporting as well as head of the music committee. In 2014 her effort paid off as she became the deputy station manager at Tshwane FM until 2017.

She joins the SMU team as a young enthusiastic black woman who is ready to deliver services to the university without any stint. "Big changes are headed our way, because of the geographical difficulties we experience as a radio station in terms of frequency, going online and hosting both on-air and outdoor promotional campaigns such as competitions as well as theme awareness campaigns will benefit the brand as we will be able to reach a wider audience because we are only standing on approximately 5000 listeners," say Pheelwane.

One of Pheelwane's main focus is ensuring that 97.1 radio frequency does not commit any injustice to its audience. She says "I am fortunate enough that the station is still relatively new and upcoming, therefore I can exercise accurate training for staff and help build community engagement which will increase listenership".

In the same breath she alluded that in her attempt to reach her goals, she will always keep in mind that the radio station is the voice of the institution, therefore will strive to uphold the mission, vision and values set to guide both SMU and the Ga-



SMU FM Station Manager:
Ms Precious Pheelwane

Introducing Ms Odette Ramsingh - Executive Director of Human Resources

By Lekgetho More

Ms Odette Ramsingh recently joined Sefako Makgatho Health Sciences University as the Executive Director of Human Resources. Odette's professional experience stretches over twenty years across legal, trade union, public, financial and health sectors.

She exudes excitement around her new role and her goals for SMU are nothing short of excellence. "I am excited about joining SMU and contributing to its strategic goals. SMU's role in the broader society around developing health professionals to serve the country's health needs resonates with me. I want to be part of this bigger contribution to our country," said Odette. As an Executive Director of Human Resources, her key responsibility is to manage strategic human resources

to support the strategic imperatives of SMU, within a healthy environment and high performing culture. She is also tasked with the process of implementing the Safety, Health and Environment Management, amongst others.

She is a multifaceted graduate who always feel the need to do better, and to continuously push herself. She holds a Bachelor of Arts (BA) and a Bachelor of Laws (LLB) degrees both from the University of KwaZulu-Natal. She also completed a Senior Executive Programme with the Harvard Business School, Boston, USA. She continued to further her studies by obtaining a Master of Business Administration

(MBA) with the University of Cape Town and Master of Arts (MA) with the University of Sussex, United Kingdom.

In terms of positions held, Odette has served at one of the highest administrative levels in the public sector as a Director-General. Having started her career as a lawyer, she quickly moved through the ranks and progressed to management and executive positions in diverse organisations such as organised labour; provincial and national public structures; and the private sector.

"My career started off as a candidate attorney, and I then went on to serve as a Legal and Training Officer in the South African Commercial and Catering Allied Workers Union (SACCAWU). These formative years were important to my development, and the various positions I have since held" explained Odette.

Subsequently she progressed to Anglo-American as a Divisional Industrial Relations Legal Advisor, and in 1996, Odette started a long and successful career in the public sector when she joined the Mpumalanga Provincial Administration as Director (Labour Relations) and also served as the acting Chief Director in Corporate Services before moving to the national public service.

Odette rapidly progressed in the public service, holding, amongst others, the positions of Chief Director: Appeals and Grievances; Acting Deputy Director-General (Merit and Equity) and Deputy Director-General (Human Resources Management and Labour Relations) until 2006, ending her stint in the public service as the Director-General, Public Service Commission.

In 2009 she made a successful transition to the private sector when she joined Metropolitan Health Group as the Group Human Resources Executive, responsible for implementing the People Management Strategy, providing innovative leadership in the function. Before joining SMU she served as the Group Stake-holder Relations at MMI Holdings.



Ms Odette Ramsingh - Executive Director of Human Resources

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