



**MPH Graduates meet SOPH staff at a pre-graduation Celebration**

**32 SOPH Graduates at March 2014 Graduation!  
At the March 2014 UWC Graduation the School of Public  
Health boasts 3 PhD, 19 MPHs and 9 PGDs.**



***Dr Hazel Bradley***

*PhD Topic:  
Developing roles and competencies  
of district pharmacists: a case  
study from Cape Town*



***Dr Mary Kasule***

*PhD Topic:  
Thesis: A model  
for obtaining informed  
consent for HIV clinical  
trials research with  
pediatric patients*



***Dr Wondwossen Lerebo***

*PhD topic:  
A hierarchical modeling  
approach to identify factors  
associated with the uptake  
of HIV counselling and  
testing, maternal health  
services, and prevention of  
mother to child HIV  
transmission programme  
services among post-partum  
women in Ethiopia*

## My PhD Journey...

*Dr Hazel Bradley*



On Wednesday 19 March 2014 I shall be graduating with my doctorate in Public Health. It is an occasion I have been anticipating for some time, and yet at the same time it was not on my original career trajectory. As many of you know I arrived in Cape Town from the UK in 1994, two months after the first democratic elections. In 1997 I began to broaden my professional pharmacy qualification by studying for a Master of Public Health at the School of Public Health (or the Public Health Programme, as it was then known) here at the University of the Western Cape. This introduced me to the South African health system as it was being transformed by the incoming government and gave me the opportunity to become acquainted with primary health care services in Cape Town. Subsequently, after a few years of research and working with an NGO I joined the staff of the School of Public Health. My professional background and interest in primary level pharmaceutical services strongly influenced the choice of my PhD topic and existing relationships with local pharmacists and managers in Cape Town facilitated a participatory action research (PAR) approach. Completing my PhD was only possible by the guidance and support of my supervisor, Prof Uta Lehmann, and co-supervisor, Prof Nadine Butler and I am grateful to them for accompanying me on this journey. I would also like to acknowledge the kindness and patience of all the SOPH staff over these past few years whilst I have been overly focused on my PhD!

My PhD research explored the emergence of sub-structure and sub-district pharmacists in Cape Town by considering their roles and related competencies, and the support required to establish them in these new positions. The research was carried out in partnership with Metro District Health Services (MDHS) and City Health. It took place as MDHS was dividing the Cape Town Metro District into four sub-structures, and the research is embedded in these unfolding developments. The four sub-structures were created to be closer in size to WHO health districts than the unmanageably large Metro District. Consequently, sub-structures and sub-structure pharmacists in this study should be considered equivalent to districts and district pharmacists in other settings.

I used a participatory action research (PAR) approach to partner with pharmacists and managers in both organisations between 2008 and 2011. The partnership benefitted from the contextual and practice experiences of the health services stakeholders and my evolving research expertise. Including a broad stakeholder group was considered important for developing the shared learning and understanding that would translate into action and change in the organisations.

After an initiation stage, the research evolved into a series of five iterative cycles of action and reflection, each providing increasing understanding of the roles and related competencies of sub-structure and sub-district pharmacists, and their experiences as they transitioned into these new management positions in the two organisations. The research centered around two series of three interactive workshops I facilitated, attended by both pharmacists and managers, in which I contributed information from published literature and documentary reviews to the collaborative processes. Semi-structured interviews and focus groups were conducted at various stages during the research, to inform conceptualization and supplement workshops, and later on, during years three and four, to reflect on the experiences of sub-structure and sub-district pharmacists.

The research identified five main roles each for sub-structure and sub-district pharmacists. Four of these roles are the same for each:

- Sub-structure [Sub-district] management
- Planning, co-ordination and monitoring of pharmaceuticals, human resources, budget, infrastructure

- Information and advice
- Quality assurance and clinical governance  
But their fifth roles are different:
- Research, for sub-structure pharmacists. Dispensing at clinics for sub-district pharmacists.

Although they look similar, there were substantial differences between sub-structure and sub-district pharmacist roles in the two organisations. Essentially the two cadres were working at different management and leadership levels, with sub-structure pharmacists working at middle management level and sub-district pharmacists straddling first level and middle management levels.

Five competency clusters were identified for both cadres, each with several competencies.

- Professional pharmacy practice
- Health system/public health
- Management
- Leadership
- Personal, interpersonal and cognitive
- 

Whilst professional pharmacy practice competencies were particularly valued by sub-structure and sub-district managers, overall, sub-structure and sub-district pharmacists required generic management and leadership competencies. Along with the more technical management and leadership competencies, both organisations recognised the importance of 'softer' competencies for pharmacists moving into these management positions.

Transitioning into these new management positions was an emergent process, which entailed pharmacists changing from performing technical and clinical functions associated with professional pharmacy practice to co-coordinating pharmaceutical services across the sub-structure or sub-district. Adjusting to these new management positions took time and was facilitated by several personal and organisational factors which varied in the two organisations. Managers and pharmacists mentioned the positive contribution of the PAR in assisting with this transition.

Several implications for developing competencies in sub-structure and sub-district pharmacists emerged during the research. Firstly, although competency frameworks for sub-structure and sub-district pharmacists are useful they need to be tailored for each setting. Secondly, a mixture of traditional training options, including academic qualifications and short courses, as well as innovative on-the-job support such as mentoring and coaching are required to support sub-structure and sub-district pharmacists, and other similar cadres in these positions.

## SOPH 2014 Student Intake

*Compiled by Janine Kader*

Degree/Diploma	Number Accepted	Number Registered/Graduating
<i>Post Graduate Diploma in Public Health</i>	23	20
Master of Public Health	47	40
MPH Year 2	36	28
MPH Year 3 +	26	25
MPH Thesis Only	45	21 Graduating
PhD	44	3 Graduating

## **My PhD Journey...**

### ***Dr Wondwossen Lerebo***

Way back in 2008, I embarked on my journey into the doctoral world at the department of statistics after completing my MSC (*Cum Laude*), to do mathematical modeling on TB and HIV/AIDS. There I was quickly submerged into assigned readings of numerous books and articles written in almost incomprehensible language that discussed foreign concepts such as deterministic modeling, stochastic modeling etc. I felt totally lost and keen to get someone who could help me. I knocked on different professors' doors and mailed to all the possible professors at the statistics and Mathematics Departments and Schools of Public Health, with little success. Until an opportunity arose to work as a researcher at the School of Public Health, University of the Western Cape.



Before that for more than a year I couldn't find someone to advise me on the mathematical modeling part. In 2009 my main supervisor Extraordinary Professor Debra Jackson advised me to change from mathematical modeling to statistical modeling on HIV testing and counseling and to move from the Statistics Department to School of Public Health. Initially I planned to use the data from South Africa prevention of mother to child transmission (PMTCT) evaluation but then decided to collect data by myself and changed the title of my research. Getting funding to collect data from Ethiopia was another challenge ... but everything was sorted out in its own time ... sometimes I didn't know how it was sorted out. In this journey many times I have asked myself: Why? Why am I doing a PhD? Why have I embarked on this journey of constant challenges? Why have I allowed to do internet searches in my field of study for days with very little success? Why was I accumulating stacks of documents and printed papers to become such a big part of my life?

I am sure I am not the only doctoral researcher who asks such questions at some stage during the PhD. And this is normal...in fact this is great! We should ask this question more often in order to gain a better understanding of what we do and the world we live in... I thought a lot about such existential questions. And my answer eventually was simpler than I thought. I do it....to be happy!!! I remember that feeling of happiness I had when I learnt that I was accepted for a PhD programme! Did you not have similar emotions too? When you shared your experiences with other PhD students? Or when your first conference paper was accepted?

The completion of my dissertation and subsequent Ph.D. has been a long journey. It's true that "Life is what happens" when you are completing your dissertation. Life doesn't stand still, nor wait until you are finished and have time to manage it. Much has happened and changed in the time I was involved with this project, or as some of my dear friends have so affectionately referred to it "The Paper." My dissertation has always been a priority, but as most people know, there are several priorities in a person's life at any one time and these have to be managed.

I could not have succeeded without the invaluable support of a several people. I'd like to give special thanks, beginning with my supervisors Extraordinary Professor Debra Jackson, Professor Steven Callens, Professor Christina Zarowsky and Professor Marleen Temmerman; also to all the SOPH staff particularly, Professor Thandi Puoane, Professor Gail Hughes, Lungiswa Tsolekile, Corrine Carolissen, Marlene Peterson, Dr. Shun Govender, Bridget Basson, Teresa De Lima, and of course Melvin who was enormously helpful during my study.

I Praise God!

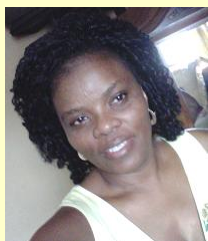
# FACULTY OF COMMUNITY AND HEALTH SCIENCES

*Compiled by Corinne Carolissen*

## SOPH CLASS OF 2014

MARCH 2014 GRADUATES

### PG DIPLOMA IN PUBLIC HEALTH



**BINZA, WELISWA**



**MAKAZHA, TIMOTHY**

*Studying at UWC SOPH was an unforgettable experience that I am beyond thankful for. It was fulfilling not only on a professional level as I had expected, but on a personal one as well. During the course of my studies, my public health interest has not diverted but has actually widened. The course made me to understand public health not as just an employment opportunity but a goal, idea and mission.*

**BYLEVELD, STIAAN**



*Having the opportunity before to facilitate DHIS and GIS software courses during winter and summer school at UWC made me feel like one of the staff at the SOPH and I experienced this warm hospitality and friendliness throughout my PGD study last year. This makes me proud to be associated with UWC and am looking forward to practice my newly acquired skills and knowledge through my broadened view of Public Health'*

**CHIPINDURO, JOSEPH  
GETYEZA, ASANDA  
KHAMANE, MALEFU JUCINTA  
MBANJWA, MLUNGISI  
NOSHIR, CYNTHIA YARA SHEELA  
SINGH, ROSCHELLE**

### MASTER OF PUBLIC HEALTH



**ANTHONY, Adele**

**Thesis:** Assessment of clinical practices in children admitted with severe acute malnutrition in three District Hospitals, in the Western Cape

**Supervisor:** Prof. T. Puoane, **Co-Supervisor:** Prof. D. Sanders

*The MPH was a wonderful learning experience which has enhanced my career pathing*

*With maintained focus and motivation one definitely succeeds. It definitely helps to have a supportive environment both at home and work.*



**CHANDA, Michael**

**Thesis:** Factors that Impact on the capacity of District AIDS Task Forces to coordinate decentralised HIV/AIDS services in Zambia

**Supervisor:** Ms. V. Mathews, **Co-Supervisor:** Prof. D. Sanders

*I have attended training at different universities in different parts of the world and from a practical public health point of view; my experience at UWC stands out as a positively unique. It is practical, theoretically sound and relevant to the current public health discourse.*



**EGHAREVBA, Johnbull**

Thesis: Determination of the factors influencing the choice for hospital delivery among women in Abakaliki, Nigeria

Supervisor: Prof. B. van Wyk

*It was quite a challenging experience having to balance a hectic work schedule with the rigorous studies at UWC, but the ensuing benefits have been immense. I was highly inspired by the teachings and revolutionary ideologies of Professor David Sanders as well as the invaluable insights gained from the Human Resources Management and Health Management modules.*

**GAUSI, Khoti**

Thesis: Assessment of the use of routine Health Management Information Systems in decision-making in Malawi

Supervisor: Prof. E. Igumbor



**HAMZAT, Omotayo**

Thesis: Assessment of the Pharmaceutical Information System in district hospitals in Abuja, Nigeria

Supervisor: Dr. H. Bradley, Co-Supervisor: Dr. G. Reagon

*I have been working in the area of public health for some years, attending SOPH, UWC has improved my knowledge and skills. The curriculum and the method of delivery were simply out of the box. The course is stressful (not that it can be easier elsewhere) but it is most rewarding & interesting.*



**JALANG'O, Atieno**

Thesis: Outpatient diabetes care at Kenyatta National Hospital: An assessment of institutional care practices against national diabetes care guidelines

Supervisor: Ms. L. Tsolekile, Co-Supervisor: Prof. T. Puoane

*Doing my MPH by distance learning has been rewarding as I was still able to work and I appreciated the convenience. It has enabled me to view health issues, from a broader perspective. It has been an enriching, rewarding experience, thanks to the support from UWC staff concerned. I am truly glad it has come to a fruitful end. I thank God he led me this way. My gratitude to everyone who has made contribution to my learning experience, it has been worthwhile.*



**JOEMAT, Janine**

Thesis: A 10 year review of routine data for teenage mothers who deliver in public sector primary health care facilities in the Western Cape Province in Cape Town, South Africa from 2000 - 2010

Supervisor: Prof. C. Zarowsky, Co-Supervisor: Prof. B. van Wyk

*The graduation ceremony for the Master of Public Health programme was such a blessed occasion. It was a privilege to have vice-chancellor O'Connell presiding over the event.*

*I am grateful for the opportunity to have participated in the MPH programme and would like to extend my sincere gratitude to the SoPH faculty staff and my fellow students for contributing to my experience at UWC.*



**KILONZO, Henry**

Thesis: Community health information management practices: Assessment of community health workers information use for adaptive health programming in Nyando Division, Kenya

Supervisor: Ms. V. Mathews

*It was my first time to study at a Univeristy abroad. I had never experienced an institution that focuses on mentorship, coaching and handholding like UWC. The focus on quality of content and processes by the University staff is unparalleled! Hence, I am now able to use the skills and knowledge gained to contribute to improved health and well-being of the society!*

**MADEDE, Tavares**

Thesis: The Effects of Global Health Initiatives on Human Resources for Health Development in the Public Sector in Chokwe District, Mozambique

Supervisor: Dr. T. Mathole, Co-Supervisor: Prof. D. Sanders



**MAGASANA, Vuyolwethu**

Thesis: Quality of home-based HIV counseling and testing performed by lay counselors in a rural sub-district of KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa

Supervisor: Dr. T. Doherty, Co-Supervisor: Dr. W. Zembe

**MEDHANE, Fitsumberhan**

Thesis: Factors affecting career intentions of medical students in two medical schools in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

Supervisor: Prof. H. Schneider, Co-Supervisor: Prof D. Hailemariam



**MFENGU, Sipiwo**

Thesis: Factors associated with the re-admission of patients with schizophrenia to the East London Mental Health Unit

Supervisor: Prof. C. Zarowsky

*Through the support of module lecturers, admin staff in particular Janine and Corinne and my mini-thesis supervisor Prof Christina Zarowsky I managed to overcome all having my own determination to obtain MPH. All the modules were challenging but interesting.*

*Writing a mini-thesis was challenging even the phase of writing a protocol but because it is linked to other modules like MHD I&II and HSR I&II, I got there with good understanding of what is expected. Many thanks to my family, friends, colleagues, academics, UWC School of Public Health administrators, lecturers, the whole team and my supervisor. I am now academically at another level because of your contribution.*



**MUTUNDA, Anne**

Thesis: Factors impacting on the menstrual hygiene among school-going adolescent girls in Mongu district, Zambia

Supervisor: Dr. R. Stern

*Studying for MPH degree at UWC has been a great and challenging experience to me. The 3 years taught me a lesson about discipline and efficiency, without which nothing goes. But furthermore, I would not have succeeded without a committed and knowledgeable faculty of teachers and an inspiring and encouraging supervisor. Thank you UWC and thank you Dr. Ruth Stern*



**NDUMBA, Idah**

Thesis: Association of non-polio enteroviruses with acute flaccid paralysis in Zambia

Supervisor: Dr. G. Reagon

*Undertaking my MPH at the School of Public Health will remain the greatest experience of my life. I will admit that studying at a distance was not easy but I saw myself grow step by step and now the school has produced a graduate. For this reason I am greatly indebted to the school and in particular to my thesis supervisor Dr. Gavin Reagon who had a special contribution to my successful completion of the MPH. My God bless you*



**NGUNI, Catherine**

Thesis: Exploration and description of barriers to male participation in antenatal and prevention of mother to child transmission of HIV(PMTCT) services in Mumbwa district in Zambia

Supervisor: Dr. S. Shamu, Co-Supervisor: Prof. N. Abrahams

*My experience of studying the Master of Public Health at the school of Public Health, UWC has been enriching, it has made me a strong and focused woman. I salute my God given supervisors – Prof. Abrahams and Dr. Shamu for their encouragement that pulled me up even when I felt like quitting my studying.*



**NYAMUDEZA, Evajoyce**

Thesis: Developing an understanding of HIV/AIDS awareness, attitudes and sexual practices among the elderly in Harare, Zimbabwe

Supervisor: Dr. T. Mathole

*UWC is the place to study. It taught me integrity, consistency, perseverance and to believe in myself.*



**SAID, Abubakar**

Thesis: Comparative study of patient satisfaction with HIV/AIDS care provided by nurses and by doctors at the Infectious Disease Hospital in Kano, Nigeria

Supervisor: Prof. B. van Wyk

*“A place of quality, a place to grow from hope to action through knowledge.”-UWC*

*The University of the Western Cape School of Public Health have broaden my knowledge and I have since started growing, touching lives and saving lives in Public Health perspectives through the knowledge acquired during my MPH program which is multi-disciplinary and multi-professional.*

**SINGH, Yagespari**

Thesis: Multi-Source Assessment of Community Health Worker Performance in the context of a supportive supervision programme in Durban, Kwa-Zulu-Natal

Supervisor: Prof. D. Jackson





**VATASSERYVADAKKEMAD OM  
RAMAIYER, Raman**

Thesis: What influences local mentorship arrangements in community health worker programmes? Exploring the CHW mentorship system in Rajasthan State, India

Supervisor: Prof. H. Schneider, Co-Supervisor: Dr. B. Nkosi

*In 2008, Prof David Sanders visited the 'Mitaniin' Community Health Volunteer Programme and the State Health Resource Centre (SHRC), in the state of Chhattisgarh, India. This was the same time the SHRC had initiated the Public Health Resource Network (PHRN) for public health capacity building in the needy areas of India. Since we had initiated nationwide public health capacity building programmes and many of us were practitioners without formal training or qualifications in the discipline of Public Health, Prof Sanders suggested some of us to get enrolled at the SoPH, UWC. Later a PHRN delegation*

*visited UWC and some of the PHRN leaders including me were enrolled for the MPH programme in the UWC.*

*For me, this MPH journey took more than the stipulated time amid several work related priorities and other challenges; but the additional time I took also made me to realise the commitment and involvement of the SoPH team in everything that they do, and in driving most of the students to the destination. Without the persistent as well as patient follow up from the SoPH team, I don't think students like me who are engaged in fulltime jobs with larger public health responsibilities could ever complete such demanding course/thesis works. This MPH experience has given me a lot of ideas and insights as well, for improving not only the course contents, but the student retention and course completion levels in the public health distance learning programmes that we have initiated in India.*

*Personally, it is a great feeling to have a formal public health degree from the SoPH, UWC. My profound thanks to the entire SoPH team for the support provided to me, throughout my study period.*

*Finally, it will be a great step forward if the UWC can consider a reduced international fee for students from Low and Middle Income Countries outside Africa. This would help enrolment of more students from settings like that of ours*

## PHILOSOPHAE DOCTOR

**BRADLEY, Hazel Anne**

Thesis: Developing roles and competencies of district pharmacists: a case study from Cape Town

Supervisor: Prof. U. Lehmann, Co-Supervisor: Prof. N. Butler



Hazel Bradley conducted a participatory action research study on the roles and competencies of pharmacists in Cape Town's primary health care facilities. As South Africa's public health systems has been reforming over the past 20 years different health professions have had to rethink and redefine their roles in and contributions to rendering health care to the vast majority of the population. For over 4 years Bradley worked with pharmacists and managers employed to ensure good pharmaceutical services in clinics and community health centres to better understand and improve their contribution to quality health service delivery. Her study approach and results are an exemplar of UWC's mission as an engaged University that creates public value through its research, and its importance and a *WHO Collaborating Centre for Research in Human Resources for Health*. One of the external examiners commented that Bradley's thesis makes distinctive and important contributions to both the fields of health policy and systems research and of pharmacy practice.

**KASULE, Mary**

Thesis: A model for obtaining informed consent for HIV clinical trials research with pediatric patients

Supervisor: Prof. T. Puoane, Co-Supervisor: Dr. F. Barchi



All research involving human subjects should be conducted in accordance to the general ethical principles of autonomy or respect for persons, beneficence and justice. Competent adults can exercise their autonomy and can choose to take on risk if they want, therefore are able to protect their own interests while in the paediatric research the 'best interests of the child' takes precedence over autonomy. In other words giving informed consent for the child, is not *'who decides'* but *'what is the best decision for the child'*.

Due to lack of consensus gold standard to guide researchers and assess the quality of parental informed consent in Botswana, the candidate examined the practical and ethical challenges posed in obtaining parental informed consent for child enrolment in paediatric HIV clinical trials.

Long and complex consent forms given the low parental literacy level was challenging. Illness of children and opportunity to access health care motivated parents to give consent for enrolling the child in the trial. The findings were used to developed a model that could be used to inform the development of the guidelines and the review of regulations regarding research involving children in Botswana

**LEREBO, Wondwossen**

Thesis: A hierarchical modeling approach to identify factors associated with the uptake of HIV counseling and testing and prevention of mother to child HIV transmission programme among post-partum women in Ethiopia

Supervisor: Prof. D. Jackson

Co-Supervisors: Prof. S. Callens, Prof. C. Zarowsky, Prof. M. Temmerman

Wondwossen Lerebo conducted his doctoral research in his home country of Ethiopia. He examined critical issues in maternal health facing not only Ethiopia but all of Africa. His research focused on factors contributing to women accessing HIV testing, antenatal care and prevention of transmission of HIV to babies using innovative statistical models. He elegantly combined field-based original research with mathematical modeling to provide a more comprehensive examination which can assist programme managers in Ethiopia to improve antenatal health care. One external examiner commented: "The main strength of the thesis is that it is a multifaceted and sophisticated approach including comprehensive literature review, appreciation of the primary problem, original field research (which is always challenging in a stand-alone PhD setting) and thorough and high level statistical analysis of the data." The international examiner commented: "the study will provide an important advance in our understanding of how best to analyse this type of data."



## Dr Lucia Knight appointed Senior Lecturer at SOPH

I have a Masters in Population Studies from the University of KwaZulu-Natal and my PhD was in Family Demography from the Centre for Population Studies at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine. Since completing my PhD I have worked in the HIV/AIDS, STIs and TB unit at the Human Sciences Research Council in Durban/Sweetwaters as a research specialist. I was involved in a range of research projects. Some highlights include two studies of alternative models of HIV testing and a large and ongoing study assessing the well-being of young children in South Africa. I have just completed a study assessing the repercussions of maternal mortality for orphaned children and the household in order to draw attention to the need for prevention. My research focusses on the social and structural determinants of health and the knock-on effects of ill-health for families. I am excited for a new challenge and look forward to learning from and working with the great team at SoPH.



## Dr Martina Lembani awarded a Post Doctoral Fellowship at SOPH



Dr Lembani, who hails from Malawi, holds a PhD in International Development Studies from the Ruhr University of Bochum, Germany, and a Masters from UWC. In addition to pursuing her own PhD research further she will work with Professor Christina Zarowsky on the REBUILD project that is being conducted in collaboration with the Merriman School of Public Health, Columbia University.

Dr Lembani's PhD topic was an *Analysis of the effectiveness of Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) in HIV and AIDS Service Delivery: The Case of the ART programme in Malawi*.

Her research in public health during her Postdoc will be in the areas of Health Systems Analysis using complex dynamic modeling, HIV treatment outcomes and Quality of health care to patients

## SOPH Staff take up Appointments



**Prof Debra Jackson** (left) has taken an appointment at Unicef, New York

**Prof Christina Zarowsky** (right) has taken an appointment at the University of Montreal's School of Public Health



Both remain Honorary Professors at SOPH with supervision and research engagements



*World-renowned photographer Gideon Mendel has been commissioned by Atlantic Philanthropies to photograph the School of Public Health and the Life Sciences buildings on the UWC campus.*

*Atlantic Philanthropies provided the funding for the erection of the School of Public Health, taken in use five years ago. Gideon will work with young photographers from the UCT Michaelis School of Fine Art to document the School of Public Health Building in a living way - by capturing not just the structure but its purposes.*

## **UWC to co-host NRF/DST Centre of Excellence (CoE) in Food Security**

**The Minister of Science and Technology has announced that the UWC proposal to host a Research CoE in Food Systems Change has been successful.**

UWC will co-host the CoE in Food Security with the University of Pretoria (UP). The Executive Managements of UWC and UP will meet shortly to work out the logistics for the management of the CoE.

UWC's proposal for the CoE under the leadership of Prof Julian May, Director of the Institute for Social Development, involves researchers from the EMS, CHS and Law faculties. The proposal was also developed in partnership with researchers from the University of Cape Town and Stellenbosch University, with Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University and the University of Fort Hare as collaborating partners. International collaborations include the University of Missouri and City University of New York, USA; Sussex University, UK and the Australian National University.

This is a historic moment as this is the first CoE to be hosted at a historically disadvantaged institution. Surely, a proud moment for a University with one of the lowest student fee structures in the country, that continues to provide access to a wide range of students, with an emphasis on the talented from the poorest of the poor, and nurtures them so that they stand shoulder-to-shoulder alongside their national/international peers.

It is anticipated that the annual budget of the CoE will be between R7-10 million per year over the next 10 years. The research programme will allow for postgraduate scholarships at UWC and our partner institutions, with significant participation by students from previously disadvantaged communities.

On behalf of all UWC stakeholders we offer our congratulations to Prof Julian May and the team which prepared our winning proposal.



For more information please see the press release on the NRF website [www.nrf.ac.za](http://www.nrf.ac.za)

**Ramesh Bharuthram (Deputy Vice Chancellor Academic)**



## SOPH Participates in new International Master in Health Information Management Degree offering



SOPH academics Dr Gavin Reagon (top left) and Prof Brian Van Wyk (middle left) and UWC Department of Information Systems Prof Louis Fourie (bottom right) and Dr James Njenga (bottom left) form part of the international faculty, together with Dr Wanja Waura-Tenambergen (top right) and Prof George Odhiambo-Otieno (middle right) both of whom are from the Kenya Methodist University (Kenya), and Prof Olaf Jacobs (above) of the Neu-Ulm University of Applied Sciences (Germany) are part of the team that have developed and are teaching the new international Masters degree in health information management.



This new collaborative Masters degree was made possible by generous funding from DAAD. The degree is taught over three blocks of six weeks each, with inter-block learning activities. The six week blocks are rotated between South Africa, Kenya and Germany. Intensive face-to-face engagement with the first cohort of students is currently underway at UWC.



## Employment Opportunities

### Senior Scientist Entry (Public Health), Burden of Disease Research Unit Cape Town, 3-year contract

The Unit requires the services of a Senior Scientist with a Public Health and/or Epidemiology background to provide inputs on a large collaborative research project to estimate the contribution of selected risk factors on the burden of disease experienced in South Africa.



The successful candidate is required to assume the following duties:

- Undertake systematic review of literature and data sources in a focused area.
- Analyse and interpret epidemiological data on the incidence, prevalence and case fatality of selected diseases.
- Analyse trends in the prevalence of selected risk factors.
- Write scientific reports and papers for publication.
- Present research results at local and national conferences and meetings.

Key competencies and skills required:

- Systematic thinking and planning to ensure competent documentation of data-sourcing and data-review steps and methods.
- Strong quantitative skills.
- Knowledge of the epidemiology of at least one health problem in South Africa.
- Problem solving skills.
- Ability to organise own time around activities to meet project deadlines.
- Good verbal and written communication skills.

Minimum requirements

- Master's degree or equivalent NQF level 7 qualification in Epidemiology or Public Health (MPH).
- A minimum of 4-years of public health research experience (of which 2 years are post Master's training).
- Experience with managing data and statistical analysis in STATA and Excel.
- Computer literacy in MS packages and electronic literature searching.
- A track record of first-authored peer-review publication in the field of Public Health and/or Epidemiology and/or Burden of Disease.
- Relevant referee-confirmed experience.

A cost-to-company remuneration package of **R348 180 – R384 730** per annum is offered.

Forward your application, comprising of a full CV, a cover letter of motivation, contact details of three referees, a sample of written scientific work and certified hard copies of formal qualifications (mailed), to Ms Janet Ndimande, Human Capital Management Division, MRC, PO Box 19070, Tygerberg 7505 or fax (021) 938-0829 or via e-mail to: [recruitment@mrc.ac.za](mailto:recruitment@mrc.ac.za)

**Closing date: 21 March 2014**

**PLEASE QUOTE THE REFERENCE NUMBER (R711) IN ALL COMMUNICATIONS. CERTIFIED COPIES OF YOUR ID AND HIGHEST FORMAL QUALIFICATIONS MUST BE SUBMITTED WITH THIS APPLICATION. SHOULD YOUR APPLICATION NOT CONTAIN THE REQUIRED INFORMATION AND DOCUMENTS, IT WILL UNFORTUNATELY NOT BE CONSIDERED.**

Should no feedback be received within 30 days after closing date, kindly consider your application as unsuccessful. The MRC retains the right not to make an appointment. In accordance with MRC's Employment Equity Plan, preference will be given to suitably qualified candidates from the designated groups. For this reason we require Race, Gender and Disability status to be specified. **Disabled persons are welcome to apply.**



**Scientist Seasoned (Public Health), Burden of Disease Research Unit  
Cape Town, 3-year contract**

The Unit requires the services of a Scientist with a Public Health and/or Epidemiology background to provide inputs on a large collaborative research project to estimate the contribution of selected risk factors on the burden of disease experienced in South Africa.

The successful candidate is required to assume the following duties:

- Undertake systematic review of literature and data sources in a focused area.
- Analyse epidemiological data on the incidence, prevalence and case fatality of selected diseases.
- Analyse trends in the prevalence of selected risk factors.
- Write scientific reports and papers for publication.
- Present research results at local and national conferences and meetings.

Key competencies and skills required:

- Systematic thinking and planning to ensure competent documentation of data-sourcing and data-review steps and methods.
- Strong quantitative skills.
- Knowledge of the epidemiology of at least one health problem in South Africa.
- Problem solving skills.
- Ability to organise own time around activities to meet project deadlines.
- Good verbal and written communication skills.

Minimum requirements:

- Master's degree or equivalent NQF level 7 qualification in Epidemiology or Public Health (MPH).
- A minimum of 2-years of public health research experience.
- Experience with managing data and statistical analysis in STATA and Excel.
- Computer literacy in MS packages and electronic literature searching.
- A track record of a co-authored peer-review publication in the field of Public Health and/or Epidemiology and/or Burden of Disease.
- Relevant referee-confirmed experience.

A cost-to-company remuneration package of **R312 487 – R345 290** per annum is offered.

Forward your application, comprising of a full CV, a cover letter of motivation, contact details of three referees, and certified hard copies of formal qualifications (mailed), to Ms Janet Ndimande, Human Capital Management Division, MRC, PO Box 19070, Tygerberg 7505 or fax (021) 938-0829 or via e-mail to: [recruitment@mrc.ac.za](mailto:recruitment@mrc.ac.za)

**Closing date: 21 March 2014**

**PLEASE QUOTE THE REFERENCE NUMBER (R712) IN ALL COMMUNICATIONS. CERTIFIED COPIES OF YOUR ID AND HIGHEST FORMAL QUALIFICATIONS MUST BE SUBMITTED WITH THIS APPLICATION. SHOULD YOUR APPLICATION NOT CONTAIN THE REQUIRED INFORMATION AND DOCUMENTS, IT WILL UNFORTUNATELY NOT BE CONSIDERED.**

Should no feedback be received within 30 days after closing date, kindly consider your application as unsuccessful. The MRC retains the right not to make an appointment. In accordance with MRC's Employment Equity Plan, preference will be given to suitably qualified candidates from the designated groups. For this reason we require Race, Gender and Disability status to be specified. **Disabled persons are welcome to apply.**

**Medical Research Council,  
Internship, Burden of Disease Research Unit**

The Medical Research Council strives to improve the nation's health status and quality of life through relevant and excellent health research aimed at promoting equity and development.



Applications are invited for a masters internship in epidemiology/ burden of disease based in the MRC Burden of Disease Research Unit. This Unit undertakes the systematic analysis of recent epidemiological data to estimate trends in morbidity and investigate modifiable risk factors.

The candidate will be involved in projects where skills in data analysis, burden of disease and epidemiology can be developed. The candidate will be responsible, with supervision, for the data analysis and interpretation of their own project. They will be expected to produce reports and contribute to articles for publication. They will be expected to present work in progress, and contribute to the development of the MRC Burden of Disease Research Unit by participating in the ongoing activities such as journal club and seminars.

The successful candidate must have training in Public Health. Proven computer and scientific writing skills are essential and research experience would be desirable. The post is based at the MRC office in Cape Town.

The period of the post will be **one year** but may be considered for renewal based on the availability of funds and the intern's satisfactory progress. During this period, the candidate will be required to work towards a Master's degree.

Forward your application, comprising a full CV, a covering letter of motivation, and contact details of three referees, to **Mrs Janet Ndimande, Human Capital management Division, MRC, P.O Box 19070, Tygerberg 7505 or fax 086 742 8365** or via e-mail to **recruitment@mrc.ac.za**.

Closing date: **21 March 2014**.

**PLEASE QUOTE THE REFERENCE NUMBER (R722) IN ALL COMMUNICATIONS.**

**CERTIFIED COPIES OF YOUR ID AND HIGHEST FORMAL QUALIFICATIONS MUST BE SUBMITTED WITH THIS APPLICATION. SHOULD YOUR APPLICATION NOT CONTAIN THE REQUIRED INFORMATION AND DOCUMENTS, IT WILL UNFORTUNATELY NOT BE CONSIDERED.**

The MRC retains the right not to make an appointment. In accordance with the MRC's Employment Equity Plan, preference will be given to suitably qualified candidates from the designated groups. For this reason we require race, gender and disability status to be specified. Disabled persons are encouraged to apply.

The MRC is committed to employment equity and the embracing of diversity.

29 - 30 May 2014, Ukwanda Rural  
Clinical School, Worcester



--- 4th annual ---

## SUSTAINABLE RURAL HEALTH RESEARCH DAYS



This event is hosted in partnership with the Ukwanda Centre for Rural Health, Stellenbosch University, and the Anova Health Institute.

### Dear researcher, health professional and community partner

You are cordially invited to attend the 4th annual Sustainable Rural Health Research Days. The one-and-a-half day event focuses on health research in the rural areas of the Western Cape.

#### Objectives

- Provide an overview of health research in the regions from a range of disciplines
- Serve as a platform for researchers to present their research findings or to provide feedback on on-going research projects
- Present an opportunity for healthcare staff to receive first-hand feedback on research
- Identify, strengthen, and maintain research opportunities within the region
- Encourage ongoing inter-professional collaboration

#### Target audience

- Researchers, academics, and policy makers who have an interest in the health system
- Department of Health staff at provincial, district, and facility levels
- NGOs who work in the health sector

Your participation would be invaluable and greatly appreciated.

### Call for abstracts

Abstract submissions are invited for posters or oral presentations.

#### Guidelines for abstracts:

- A maximum of 300 words in English
- Arial font, size 11
- Please use the accompanying template for your submission

Abstracts should be submitted no later than **Monday, 31 March 2014**.

#### Send your abstracts to:

Danielle Daniels-Felix  
Tel: 023 346 7824 / Fax: 023 347 8482  
Email: dannydf@sun.ac.za

#### Register

To register for the event, please complete the registration form overleaf and submit to:

Hanlie Myburgh  
Tel: 021 001 9084 / Fax: 086 293 0016  
E-mail: myburgh@anovahealth.co.za

Registration closes: Wednesday 30 April 2014  
Registration cost: R350

**A limited number of bursaries will be awarded. Please apply.**

Acknowledgements: Thanks for contributions to the March 2014 Bulletin from: Corinne Carolissen, Janine Kader, Gavin Reagon, Hazel Bradley, Wondwossen Lerebo, Lucia Knight, Martina Lembani, Gavin Reagon