In 2011 and 2012, 128 students graduated from one of the School of Public Health’s (SOPH) postgraduate programmes:

- 9 students graduated with the old Postgraduate Diploma and 20 students graduated with the new Postgraduate Diploma in Public Health;
- 96 students graduated with the Master of Public Health (MPH), five cum laude;
- 3 students graduated with the PhD in Public Health.

Postgraduate Diploma in Public Health

**2011:**
- **Old Postgraduate Diploma:**
  - Akinola, Babatunde
  - Chishimba, Paul
  - Kusemererwa, Gloria
  - Kwesaba, Samkelo
  - Nyalasa, Xolisa
  - Sipeliti, Nomvelo
- **New Postgraduate Diploma:**
  - Firmino, Walter
  - Ibrahim, Modinat
  - Khumalo, Philisiwe
  - Mbedzi, Joel
  - Mwale, Joyce
  - Nsiimye, Juliet
  - Temmers, Lynette
  - Vejorerako, Clarence
  - Verkuijl, Sabine (cum laude)

**2012:**
- **Old Postgraduate Diploma:**
  - Ikandi, Simon
  - Khana, Kenneth
  - Okelola, Olakunle
- **New Postgraduate Diploma:**
  - Cloete, Elizabeth
  - Coetzee, Jennifer
  - Grootboom, Desmond
  - Kanyerere, Joyce
  - Kapembe, Tabita
  - Kowa, Kangwa
  - Mgumane, Sisanda
  - Moses, Lorraine
  - Mwaninange, Iyaloo
  - Simfukwe, Patrick
  - Van der Walt, Charmaine

Master of Public Health

The 96 students who completed the MPH in 2011 and 2012 represent a considerable increase on the 61 who did so in 2009 and 2010. This is a welcome contribution to unblocking the ‘bottleneck’ of students who have been writing their dissertations for a number of years. As in 2009 and 2010, several students who had not made progress with their mini-theses were encouraged to graduate with the Postgraduate Diploma in Public Health.

As students are encouraged to research and write up an issue in their mini-theses that either relates to their work or is a subject in which they are really interested, dissertations are often small-scale local studies focusing on a particular topic. They may also reflect current public health issues experienced by students at work as well as in the teachings of the course.

A number of themes can be seen across the theses of the students graduating in 2011 and 2012. Just under half (46 of 96) relate to HIV/AIDS and TB, with 36 of these addressing HIV/AIDS directly.

About a quarter of the mini-theses (24) address access to and perceptions of health services in general, while human resources for health is the focus of 19 studies, comprising topics like patients’ perceptions of health workers, health workers’ own experiences, and the role of community health workers in the provision of care.

Mothers and children are the focus of 22 theses. Five of these are linked to HIV while the same number address nutrition and feeding. Nine are concerned with access to, and provision of, services for mothers and children, including the quality of care received.

“My research focused on the process of the development of a tool that would allow the district health services in Cape Town, to evaluate the quality of the prevention of mother-to-child transmission services that is provided to the HIV-exposed infant. Through participatory research, local experts within the HAST (HIV, AIDS, STI and TB) arena were involved in the design, piloting and validation processes of this tool development.

Implementers of this tool have indicated its usefulness, which convinced the local HAST experts that this tool should be included into the existing Integrated HAST Audit tool. In so doing the quality of the service to the HIV exposed infant can be ensured, since gaps are identified during the evaluation process and can be responded to.”

2012 MPH graduate Juanita Arendse, Director: HIV & AIDS, STI & TB, Western Cape Provincial Department of Health, South Africa
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“I feel very honored and delighted to be one of the three MPH students graduating cum laude this March. I must say it has not been smooth sailing though. It has been a bumpy road with roadblocks here and there. When I started my MPH studies I was a bit skeptical about long distance learning since I was working full time. However I found it quite a rewarding and fulfilling experience. Conducting the mini-thesis research study ranks as one of the greatest experiences I have had in my life. I really grew in my academic writing abilities and learnt new perspectives about my work environment.

Being a biomedical scientist I undertook a research study which is different from my scientific background. I have been working in an ARV clinic for some years and met and talked on a daily basis..."
MENEBO, Mulatu  
Community participation in the provision of integrated tuberculosis and HIV/AIDS care in Sisonke district, KwaZulu-Natal

MITCHELL, Miriam (cum laude)  
Parental perceptions of health and child health needs in early childhood care and development centres in Amatole district, Eastern Cape, South Africa

MUNTEWA, Gloria Lebogang  
Comparative analysis of diagnostic and procedure coding systems for use in district and regional public hospitals in the Western Cape

MUNTEWA, Bartholomewus  
The perceptions of women regarding obstetric care in public health facilities in a peri-urban area of Namibia

MUSHIMBA, Milka Ipula  
Patient perception about reasons for non-adherence to anti-hypertensive medication in Windhoek district

MUTHIGA, Caroline  
Assessment of knowledge and attitudes on HIV and sexual risk behaviour amongst 15 to 19 year olds in Ngong sub-district, Kenya

NDUNA, Themba  
Factors associated with exclusive breastfeeding in KweKwe district, Zimbabwe

NKIRE, Everest Osondu  
The effect of high HIV/AIDS disease burden on doctors and nurses in a district hospital in Namibia

NSIBANDE, Duduzile  
Assessment of the uptake of referrals by community health workers to public health facilities in Umlazi, KwaZulu-Natal

OGUNTUNDE, Olugbenga Olalere  
Drug prescribing practices among primary health care providers in a local government area of North Western Nigeria

OKUKU, Jackson  
Factors determining attrition and retention of adherence support workers in Ndola district, Zambia

OLABANJI, Nelson Oladejo  
Factors associated with adherence to antiretroviral therapy in Katimo Mulilo Hospital, Namibia

ONAGA, Chukwuka Moses  
Profile of injury at a district hospital in Makana Municipality, Eastern Cape Province

OYEWALE, Bimpe Aderinre  
Factors affecting the implementation of the family life and HIV/AIDS curriculum in junior secondary schools in Abuja, Nigeria

PRASAD, Vandana (cum laude)  
A study to understand the barriers and facilitating factors for accessing health care amongst adult street dwellers in New Delhi, India

RUTABANZIBWA, Juvenary John  
Factors influencing patient satisfaction with doctors in the out-patient department at a district hospital in Tsumeb, Namibia

SAGWA, Evans Luvaha  
Prevalence and risk factors for occurrence of adverse effects of second line anti-tuberculosis medicines amongst patients on tuberculosis chemotherapy in a treatment facility in Namibia: 2009 – 2010

SAHAY, Sundeep  
Assessment of the ability of the health management information system in India to use information for action

SHONHIWA, Shepherd Ushe  
Barriers to effective partner notification amongst patients with sexually transmitted infections at a health centre in Windhoek district, Namibia

SULWE, Charlton Nchimunya  
Utilization of voluntary counselling and HIV testing services in Mwense district of Zambia

Basis with HIV-positive children and their caregivers. Through these informal talks … it occurred to me that their problems were more than just medical; … that they had psycho-social problems which they were willing to share but had not always had the opportunity to do so. So that’s when I decided … to give them this “voice” to outline their real problems which the ARV clinic system did not have in place.

The outcome of this research proves the need to look beyond providing simple ART to HIV positive and their caregivers, and put in place systems and mechanisms to support the children. The information gained will become invaluable for training nurses and social workers, and in policy discussions involving children with psychological behaviours.

I have discovered I derive satisfaction in helping people and I hope to get opportunities to gain experience in the development field.”

2011 MPH graduate Anafi Mataka, Medical Scientific Officer, DRM Hospital, Botswana (graduated cum laude)
“My initiation into public health happened when … a large Community Health Worker Programme, the Mitanin Programme was being launched by the [Indian] state government. … My husband and I initiated work on the right to health, women’s rights and the empowerment of the marginalized indigenous communities. … The Mitanins have been intervening in … domestic violence, right to food and health, gender rights, and forest and land rights, with a fair degree of success.

Working through the MPH was not easy but it all has been worth it. The most satisfying thing for me is that the MPH has equipped me with knowledge and skills that I am using on a daily basis in my work. I am now more confident in undertaking research and have been using a lot of what I’ve learnt in my advocacy work. I am hoping to be able to pursue my PhD with UWC.”

2012 MPH graduate Sulakshana Nandi, State Convener, Public Health Resource Network, India (graduated cum laude)
DU PLESSIS, Carol Denise
Experiences of student support in the distance mode Bachelor of Nursing Science Degree at the University of Namibia, 2005-2011

EGBUJIE, Bonaventure Amandi
Socio-economic status and cardiovascular disease risk profile of black South Africans living in an urban and rural community

FOLEFOC, Asongna Theresia
Treatment outcome of HIV-1 infected children on antiretroviral therapy in the Limpopo Province of South Africa

FWAMBO, Mercy
Factors influencing infant feeding practices of mothers in Kabwata Township, Lusaka, Zambia

GATSINDA, Melence
Factors that influence intention to stay amongst health workers in Kabay, Rwanda

GOVENDER, Thashlin
Factors that influence utilization of primary health facilities by adolescents in Tafelsig, Mitchells Plain

HABAGUSENGA, Jean d’Armour
Job satisfaction of health professionals in Kigali University Teaching Hospital

HAGOS, Amir Aman
Assessment of the effect of place of selection on performance of health posts and turnover of Health Extension Workers in Jimma Zone, Ethiopia

IROEZINDU, Michael Onyebuchi
Prevalence of HIV-related opportunistic diseases amongst HAART patients at the Federal Medical Centre in Owerri, Nigeria

JOAQUIM, Ana Maria Manuel
The perceptions and experiences of medical technicians of decentralization of the ART programme in Mozambique

KABEJA, Adeline
Effectiveness of task shifting in antiretroviral treatment services in health centres, Gasabo District, Rwanda

KAMBALE, Susan
Assessment of the knowledge and perceptions about tuberculosis among primary school children in Ntcheu District, Malawi

KANENE, Cuthbert
Assessment of the coverage and quality of HIV diagnosis, prevention and care activities within the TB programme in Livingstone District, Zambia

KHUNGA, Helen
Factors affecting detection and referral of malnourished children to Primary Health Care (PHC) level in Kalomo district, Zambia

KUFA, Erica
The timing of first antenatal care visit and factors associated with access to care among antenatal care attendees at Chitungwiza municipal clinics, Zimbabwe

KWENDA, Felix
Factors influencing male partner involvement in the mother to child transmission of HIV PLUS programme in Gobabis District: A Qualitative study

LANGDJI, Anne Ruedisili (cum laude)
Factors that influence disclosure or non-disclosure of one’s HIV-positive status to friends, family and regular sexual partners in Linguere, Senegal

MAKURUETSAA, Penny Sebuweng
Exploring the experiences of hospice care providers in palliative care implementation in Botswana

MASHINGAIIDZE, Linda
A description of the insights and attitudes of undergraduate health sciences students into the interprofessional education programme at UWC: Experiences of occupational therapy students

MATSINHE, Juvêncio Alfredo
The factors influencing nurses to pursue advanced education outside nursing in Maputo Central Hospital in Mozambique

“Though I have been working in the area of public health for some time, going through a structured course of study has helped me immensely to consolidate my knowledge and skills. The curriculum was a great resource of readings that ranged from the classics of public health to contemporary material.

Being forced to take time off from work to read and write ensured that I brought myself up to date and refreshed my own understanding of public health issues. The supervision was, on the whole, extremely insightful and facilitatory. The resultant increased confidence and rigor has motivated me to publish work that I had done but not taken to the quality needed to publish. Also, the fact that I now have a formal degree in public health from a reputed institution will help me and the public health resource organisation that I am associated with.”

2011 MPH graduate Vandana Prasad, National Convener, National Commission for Protection of Child Rights, India (graduated cum laude)
MIRUKA, Fredrick Omondi  Comparison of loss to follow-up among HIV and AIDS patients in care and treatment in Kisumu, Kenya

MOKGATLHE, Tuduetso  Factors associated with maternal mortality in South East Botswana

MOOMBA, Kaala  A qualitative study of barriers to adherence to antiretroviral treatment among patients in Livingstone, Zambia

MUBEKAPI, Constance  Nurses experiences and coping strategies within the context of an HIV/Aids work environment in Geita district, Tanzania

MUSUMALI, Masela Rose  Disclosure experiences of people living with HIV in the workplace : The case of public service workers in Zambia

MUTANDI, Gram  Quality of HIV/AIDS care provided to adult patients at an urban health centre in Namibia

MWANZA, Mike  Evaluation of the outpatient therapeutic programme for management of severe acute malnutrition in three districts of Eastern Province, Zambia

NAKATHINGO, Phillemon Kashiimbi  Assessing knowledge, attitude and practices of male condom use among male employees fifty years and older at a diamond mining company in Namibia

NANDI, Sulakshana (cum laude)  The role of community health workers in addressing social determinants of health in Chhattisgarh, India

NUUYOMA, Vistolina  An exploration of perceptions regarding the feasibility of implementation of kangaroo mother care in the maternity ward of Tsumeb district hospital, Namibia

NYATONDO, Kapera Tafadzwa Justin  Factors associated with first line regimen modification in treatment naïve adult patients on highly active antiretroviral therapy (HAART) at a rural clinic in Namibia: A cohort study

OGENDO, Arthur Odera  A qualitative assessment of the perception of the Luo community of Western Kenya on the roll out of male circumcision as a medical intervention towards reducing HIV transmission

PARKER, Shireen  The quality of reproductive health services and integration with HIV prevention and care in the Western sub-district of the Cape Metropole

SEMASAKA SENGOMA, Jean Paul  Predictors of burnout amongst nurses in paediatric and maternity wards of Kigali City, Rwanda

SHABA, Keith  Assessment of the quality of acute flaccid paralysis surveillance data in the World Health Organization African Region

SHABA, Samuel  Providers’ and patients’ perspectives on the quality of antenatal care services in three public hospitals in Abuja, Nigeria

UMUNNA, Zeluwa  Explore the factors that contribute to barriers to the utilization of health services at the primary care level - A study of two primary health clinics in Nasarawa State, Nigeria

UWALIRAYE, Parfait  Factors influencing job performance of nurses and midwives in postpartum care: Case of Kibagabaga and Muhima hospitals in Rwanda

WELDEMARIAM, Abiot  Exploring influences on nurse motivation in Butajira Zonal hospital, Ethiopia

"Studying MPH part-time at the UWC has really changed my view of distance learning. The anticipated ‘long and lonely journey’ was changed into an exciting learning experience. I really appreciated the endless support and friendliness of the lecturing and administrative staff. I also benefitted a lot from being given an opportunity to send draft assignments and to attend the mini-thesis week. The ‘Comprehensive Primary Health Care’, ‘Measuring Health and Disease’ and Research modules gave me a broader understanding of key public health issues such as PHC re-engineering such that the acquired knowledge and skills are already useful in my professional work.”

2011 MPH graduate Duduzile Nsibande, Senior Scientist, Medical Research Council, KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa
PhD in Public Health

Our intake of doctoral students has been increasing dramatically in the past few years. At present 44 students are enrolled for doctoral studies; some are our own staff members, some are attached to research projects which carry PhD scholarships, and some are self-funded. While only a few people have graduated from the PhD programme to date, we expect an acceleration of graduations in the coming years.

In 2011 and 2012 we celebrated the graduations of three students: Marianne Visser from the University of Cape Town (below), Simukai Shamu formerly from the University of Zimbabwe and now a colleague at the SOPH (on the extreme right), and Jeannine Uwimana, who is seconded from the University of Rwanda to UWC and the HIV/TB Care Association (centre).

All three dissertations addressed HIV/AIDS/TB.

2011

VISser, Marianne
The effect of vitamin A and zinc supplementation on the bacteriological response of persons with pulmonary tuberculosis in the Western Cape

2012

Shamu, Simukai
The dynamics of intimate partner violence during pregnancy and linkages with HIV infection and disclosure in Zimbabwe

UWIMANa, Jeannine
Community participation in collaborative tuberculosis and HIV activities including prevention of mother-to-child transmission (PMTCT): Development and evaluation of a community-based intervention to enhance integration of TB/HIV/PMTCT services in a rural area of South Africa

“In the early 2000s, an Indonesian trial reported quicker treatment responses after two months of standard anti-tubercular therapy among adults with pulmonary tuberculosis who received vitamin A and zinc supplements. Earlier sputum conversion would reduce the period of infectiousness and would likely reduce relapse rates.

[I was] principal investigator of a trial ... at the Delft and Delft South Community Health Centres …investigating the adjunctive supplementation of vitamin A and zinc on bacteriological outcomes of adults with sputum smear-positive pulmonary tuberculosis receiving standard anti-tubercular treatment. Unfortunately we were not able to demonstrate any beneficial effect of micronutrient supplementation on sputum conversion... [but] our data provided us with a valuable opportunity to conduct an analysis of predictors of early treatment responses among trial participants.”

2011 PhD graduate Dr Marianne Visser, Lecturer/clinical supervisor, Nutrition and Dietetics Unit, University of Cape Town, South Africa