



NEWSLETTER 2011

Editor's Corner

Another year has come and gone. Well done to the WITS team for arranging this year's conference at WITS Medical Campus. We all enthusiastically look forward to the ASSA 2012 in Namibia. A heartfelt "THANK YOU!" to the universities who sent in their news for publication and for those who did not...well it's the same old...same old...

Yours sincerely
The Editor

From the Desk of the President of ASSA

**Department of Human Biology, University of
Cape Town
Graham Louw**

The University of the Witwatersrand hosted the 39th Annual Congress of the Anatomical Society of Southern Africa this year in Johannesburg. Thank you for the hard work that the Organising Committee, under the leadership of Prof Joseph Daly, put into this event in order to ensure that it was a great success.



The Local Organising Committee of the 39th Annual Conference of the Anatomical Society of Southern Africa (from left to right): R. Chawana, A. Jovanovic, G. Veale, M. DuPlessis, T.J. Daly, L. DuPlessis, A.O. Ihunwo, M. Hosie, D. Pillay, J. Hemmingway, T. Meadows, O. Olateju. [T. Augustine and D. Brits are not in the photograph].

We look forward to the 40th Annual Congress of the Anatomical Society of Southern Africa in Namibia! This will take place in Windhoek from 14 – 18 April 2012. Thank you to Prof Willie Vorster and his team for agreeing to host this event.

Slight change of scene...

"Donated to Science"

When I was at the University of Otago last year, I was privileged to be part of the public screening of this excellent film that was made by members of staff in Anatomy. The screening was followed by the opening of an exhibition of historical material from the department that allowed the public a glimpse into the teaching of Medicine in the previous century (or two or three!). There were also contemporary works of art of the same theme, as this was, after all, at the local art gallery down town.

Here we are at the art exhibition, and Paul is standing between the Dean (Helen Nicholson) and me.



Many of us will remember seeing this DVD during the international meeting we had in Cape Town in August, 2009. Paul wrote to me to request that I play a role in advertising the film further, so I include a transcript of his message to me, below. I also took the DVD with me to an education workshop that I attended in Sao Paulo in late July, as this targeted our colleagues in South America.

The message from Paul: My name is Paul Trotman, I'm a doctor here in Dunedin, New Zealand where I split my time between clinical medicine, teaching and making documentaries about medicine. I've just finished making a film about medical students doing dissection which is now being used to introduce medical students to human dissection at the Medical Schools here so I thought you might be interested in using it.

Professor Bernard Moxham recently reviewed the film in the April issue of *The Journal of Anatomy*. He said "This is an enthralling piece of filmmaking that says much about the human condition ... It is my fervent hope that at the very least, all deans of medical schools and medical educationalists should view it in order to appreciate how important anatomy is to health care studies and practice, beyond just the factual basis of the discipline."

The film is called 'Donated to Science', and in it we interview several people who donated their bodies to the Otago Medical School for students to dissect. They gave us permission to follow their bodies through the whole process and we then interviewed the students who dissected those bodies before they had ever been in the dissection room, and followed them through until they said their last goodbye to the cadaver eighteen months later. In the film we intercut the dissection itself with the students talking about

their experiences and the donors talking about their own bodies, resulting in an unexpectedly life affirming, sad, funny and above all human film. After they finished their dissection, we showed the students the interviews with the real people they dissected. The effect is profound and gives the film an emotional climax you would be hard pressed to match in any feature film, a climax made even more powerful by the fact that it is real - for some there really is a life after death.

The film is being used as part of the anatomy curriculum in several medical schools and we now have both academic and student versions available on DVD if yourself or someone in your department or medical library is interested.

For more information, and to see a clip of the film go to www.PRNfilms.co.nz

Some quotes & reviews:_"Proof that primetime television can take on the big complicated stuff ... excellent and moving" *NZ Listener*.

"As wracked with emotion and the collywobbles as any cliff-hanger episode of a television medical drama." *Frances Grant, NZ Herald*.

"The direction, the editing, the style of the documentary were all of such a high standard that minutes into the programme, you knew you were watching something special, something literally cutting edge ... extraordinarily profound" *Jane Bowron, Dominion Post*.

"I watched Donated to Science last night. I really enjoyed it. > Beautifully filmed. And you don't really expect beauty to be your lingering impression of a film about cadaver dissection!" *Mary Roach, author of 'Stiff – the curious lives of human cadavers'*.

"Many congratulations on such a sensitive and moving documentary. I shall be disappointed if this doesn't win prizes and accolades! They need to see this in Britain." *Mark D Stringer, Professor of Anatomy*.

"We watched the film last week and we just really loved it – artistic and moving and really engrossing." *Frances Norton, Head of the Wellcome Library, London*.

"I have twice watched your brilliant documentary. I have written to say how I thrilled to the concept, philosophy, and its importance to our profession & university that the world knows

what we are about. The sequences, donors, students & tutors were spot on. It was perfect, & I congratulate your team on the production.”
Robin Fraser, Emeritus Professor of Pathology.

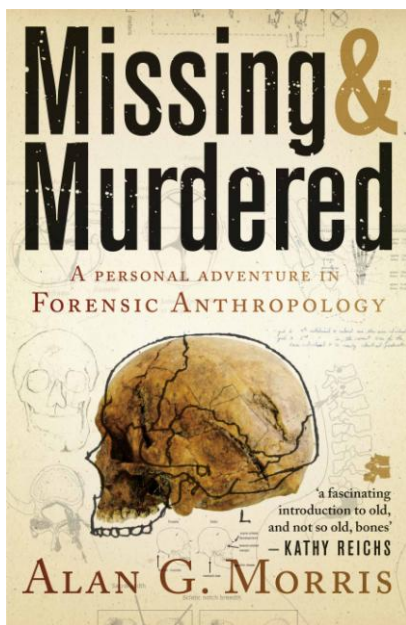
“Congratulations - the programme last night was very well done and the students were excellent representatives of the Medicine programme. The enthusiasm of the teaching staff came across very well. Do you know if copies will be available please as I would like to send it to a couple of colleagues in the UK?” *Associate Professor Mike Legge, Departments of Biochemistry and Pathology.*

NEWS FLASH!!!!

Book release:

Alan Morris

I am really excited about the new book and I hope that it will add to the popularity of Forensic Anthropology and Skeletal Biology studies.



Missing & Murdered uncovers the fascinating world of forensic anthropology and how information from bones is used to solve mysteries both modern and ancient. The popularity of TV programmes such as the *CSI* trilogy and *Silent Witness* attests to people's fascination with forensic science as a means of solving crimes and this book follows the pathway into forensics via the fields of anthropology and anatomy. It explains the practice of forensic anthropology and the skills base of skeletal biology; while at the same time debunking the 'CSI effect' (the phenomenon of popular television raises crime victims' real-world

expectations of forensic science, especially crime-scene investigation and DNA testing). From multi murders, criminal cases and the Missing Persons Task Team to the study of archaeological skeletons, *Missing & Murdered* will grip and engross readers from one intriguing chapter to the next (except taken from publicity poster by Zebra Press, Random House Struik).

University of Johannesburg



University of Pretoria

**Department of Anatomy and Physiology,
Faculty of Veterinary Science
John Soley**

The Faculty of Veterinary Science receives the first intake of second year students in the new six-year veterinary degree programme (BVSc) from 2012. As part of this programme veterinary anatomy will be presented in the second year as a comparative anatomy course using the canine, ruminants and equine for dissection. In order to make optimal use of increasingly expensive cadaver material, and trim the number of lecturers required in the anatomy hall for practicals, an innovative system of "rolling group dissections" linked to guided computer sessions as well as increased use of self-directed learning has been devised. This system relies greatly on the interactive anatomy CD and posters developed by Dr Martina Crole during the past two years and for which she received a "Certificate for Education Innovation" from the University of Pretoria. A new dissection guide and notes has also been prepared by Dr Sheryl van Staden. The current physiology and histology courses will, as from next year, be presented as an integrated course. Microscope practicals will still form part of this course.

Prof John Soley was invited to present a guest lecture at the Veterinary University of Vienna during the first week in October. The title of the presentation was "Relevance of basic anatomical research for the development of niche farming enterprises: The oropharynx of the ostrich

(*Struthio camelus*) and abnormal sperm morphology in the emu (*Dromaius novaehollandiae*). Members of the department will also be presenting aspects of their research at the 49th annual conference of the Microscopy Society of Southern Africa to be held on 7 – 9th December at the Conference Centre of the CSIR in Pretoria. Martina Crole will present her work on “Granulomatous inflammation of the pharyngeal tonsils in an ostrich” while John Soley will speak on “Morphology and origin of sperm neck defects in the emu, *Dromaius novaehollandiae*” on behalf of Lizette du Plessis.

Professor Mary-Catherine Madekurozwa was elected as a member of the NRF Specialist Committee for Animal and Veterinary Sciences for a three year term and Dr Steven Cornelius has joined the department as a member of the Section of Physiology.

University of Stellenbosch **Division of Anatomy and Histology,** **Sanet Kotzé**

Sean Zeelie Research Centre for Autoimmune Disease (SZRC): This newly established research centre in our department came about due to the passing of a previous student at this Faculty. Dr Sean Pierre Zeelie graduated as a medical doctor from Stellenbosch University in 1994. He passed away in September 2010 from an idiopathic autoimmune inflammatory disorder (IAID) resulting in multiple organ failure. His family has donated funding to our department to develop a five year research project which will include studying the genealogy of the Zeelie family and developing DNA profiles of closely related family members. Further research will include the apparent history of IAID in the Zeelie bloodline and the development of a medical profile as presented in the family. Ultimately further research into autoimmune disease in general with possible reference to *Lupis erythromatosis* is envisaged.



Prof Ben Page and his daughters Raelene and Luzette Page are the researchers involved with the Sean Zeelie project.

New Appointment: Dr Venant Tchokonte-Nana has joined our department in January, 2011. Venant is not new within the division as he was enrolled here for his PhD study which he obtained in March 2011. His research interests are in developing the pancreatic duct ligation-induced islets cells as a model for organ donor in islets transplantation. He is a member of the Islet Society, Sweden and of ASSA.



Dr Tchokonte-Nana in the microscope lab

Eskom Expo for Young Scientists: Stellenbosch regional competition: For the 2011 competition, five members of our department were invited to judge poster presentations by scholars from various primary and high schools in and around the Stellenbosch area. A total of over 360 scholars participated. The competition is an innovative way to stimulate interest in scientific research among scholars. It also serves as a platform to promote proper research approaches in scholars in a variety of scientific directions. Members of our department were mostly involved with judging of health sciences poster presentations. Winners take part in the national competition later in the year.



Judges from our department: Front: Paul Pretorius and Mandi Alblas, back: Sanet Kotzé, Ben Page and Madeleine Hanekom.

International Conference: Dr. Sanet Kotzé attended and presented at the 11th Congress of European Association of Clinical Anatomy (**EACA**) held jointly with Summer Meeting of British Association of Clinical Anatomists (**BACA**) in Padua, Italy (July 2011). The main topics were clinical anatomy, medical education, neuroanatomy and embryology. Sanet presented on the inclusion of full body digital X-rays of cadavers to our dissection programme. The meeting provided opportunities for delegates to update colleagues of developments in all the traditional topics of clinical anatomy and of the technological innovations relevant to anatomy education. The scientific program consisted of 4 plenary lectures, 148 platform presentations and 156 poster presentations. The venue of the conference was particularly fascinating to anatomists as the University of Padua is one of the oldest Universities in Europe, founded in 1222. Some of the most important anatomists in history studied and/or taught there. The opening ceremony was held at the Aula Magna in the Bo Palace, the Ancient University Building where the first permanent anatomical theatre (1594) is still conserved to this day. Adjacent to the Aula Magna, in the Room of Four, is the original lecture podium used by Galileo Galilei which was until recently still in its original position in the Aula Magna. The ancient Botanical Garden (1545), currently a UNESCO world heritage site is the world's first botanical garden and houses one of the biggest medicinal plant collections in the world.



The magnificent Aula Magna, Bo Palace, Padua where the opening ceremony was held



Sanet with other African delegates Quintin Wessels and Willie Vorster from Namibia. On the right is Prof Steven Carmichael, (editor in chief of Clinical Anatomy). The picture was taken at the gala dinner in the enormous Palazzo della Ragione. This palace was built in 1219 and was once the commercial and civil centre of Padua and the Palace of Justice. It is reported to have the largest roof unsupported by columns in Europe (80 x 27 m). On the walls are rare medieval astrological cycles that consists of 333 frescoes.

Foreign student: During 2011 our department hosted a student from the Vrije Universiteit, The Netherlands. Ravian Wettstein spent 6 months in our department researching sphincter-like structures in the azygos veins and IVVP. His study is a continuation of projects that our department carried out over the years in conjunction with Prof Piet Hoogland, professor emeritus from Vrije Universiteit. Ravian's project hopes to shed further light on the possible role of the IVVP in temperature regulation of the spinal cord and brain. He also presented his project at our Annual Faculty Day.



Raviaan with co-workers on the project, Linda Greyling and Sanet Kotzé

University of Kwazulu Natal



University of the Western Cape



University of Witwatersrand

School of Anatomical Sciences

Tanya Augustine

Mrs Diana Pillay, attended the 4th Teaching tools workshop for neuroscience in Ghana, Cape Coast from 11-17 September 2011. The workshop was hosted by the University Of Cape Coast School Of Medical Sciences and (sponsored by IBRO, SFN, SONA and NAS). It comprised 27 delegates from various countries in Africa and 7 Faculty members from the USA, Italy, UK, and Africa. The workshop focused on pedagogy learner-centered teaching which emphasized on the fundamentals of neuroscience such as Neurophysiology, Neuroanatomy, Clinical studies, Problem based learning and Sensory and Motor systems. It was a

very rewarding workshop, which equipped each delegate with more innovation ways in approaching teaching in particular in Neuroscience. This workshop also served as a great networking tool to develop collaborations with various researches in Africa and Europe

Mrs. Maira du Plessis went to St. Georges University in Grenada West Indies in July to participate in the 2nd Hanno Boon dissection Masterclass as an invited prosector. The prosections produced will be used as specimens for teaching as well as being part of the 7th ed of McMinn's Clinical Atlas of Human Anatomy. Among the prosectors were lecturers and prosectors from around England as well as Albert van Schoor from Pretoria University.

International members

America

Dr Stephen Carmichael was elected chair of the Executive committee of the Emeritus Staff of the Mayo Clinic. He is also a Life Member of ASSA.

Finally....

Everyone makes use of the internet these days...



"Nurse, get on the internet, go to SURGERY.COM, scroll down and click on the 'Are you totally lost?' icon."

Even Dogs Do IT...

