



NEWSLETTER 2012

Editor's Corner

Another year has come and gone. Well done to the UNAM team for arranging this year's conference at their new Medical Campus. We all enthusiastically look forward to the ASSA 2013 in Durban under the auspices of UKZN. 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...

The past six years as editor have been a real learning curve and an eye-opener. I have had to become super aggressive in soliciting articles / news for the newsletter, but... it was six years of great fun. To the next editor...put on your butt-kicking boots and if all else fails...nag!

Warm regards
The Editor (JDCDTP!)
(Jacqui doing cartwheels down the passage!)

From the Desk of the President of ASSA

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

I was so sad to hear of the passing of Prof Phillip Tobias. The news came unexpectedly because I had not realised that he was battling so much with ill health. I will always remember him as being a giant among academics, the perfect gentleman who was always impeccably groomed, an excellent teacher, a gifted orator, a brilliant researcher and one of South Africa's greatest assets.

As a young undergraduate student at a sister institution, I remember hearing about his work as an activist on the campus of the University of the Witwatersrand, and his outspoken stance on deeds performed by the government of the time. We students all went by bus one evening across to Wits to hear him give one of his legendary addresses to an academic group, and I can picture the scene in my mind as if it were just last week.

Prof Tobias was one of the founder members of the Anatomical Society of Southern Africa, and when I joined the Society in 1980, it was his presence at our meetings that I

remember best. He always sat in the front row of the auditorium during the presentations at our congresses, and asked probing questions after every talk. In fact, we younger ones were often very nervous about what would he would ask us at the end of our presentations. He would cite relevant publications with authors' names and journal numbers right out of his head – his mind was so sharp and his memory quite incredible. He always remained firmly on the side of the students when it came to all aspects of their attendance at our congresses. When Prof Tobias gave one of his remarkable keynote speeches, the audience would be totally captivated. It was a great thrill for me to be included as one of many authors who contributed to his FestSchrift entitled "Voyages in Science" in 2005.

The times that I spent with Prof Tobias varied from sharing a meal when I came up to Wits for a meeting or a congress, telephone conversations while planning our international meeting in Cape Town in 2009, his book launches at Exclusive Books at the V&A Waterfront, a "booze cruise" on a lake with drinks at his expense, and sharing taxi rides in Rio. When I (literally) missed the bus back to the hotel during a conference in Durban, he graciously gave me a lift in his pale blue Mercedes Benz – we laughed all the way to the hotel because the car was so

enormous and he was so small and he described himself as holding onto the steering wheel “like a little shrimp”.

From my earliest of days as a young academic, Prof Tobias encouraged me to work on integration across macroscopic, microscopic and developmental anatomy, as well as structure and function, because that is such an advantage for a lecturer when delivering course material. He always told me to be enthusiastic about everything that I teach – to have a sense of wonder at the discovery of what lies below the surface when we dissect the body. He was a great example of such talents and skills, and his words will remain with me forever.

I will never forget Prof Tobias.

University of Cape Town

Department of Human Biology
Belinda Speed, Steven Randall & Petra Maass

Our Namibian Desert Experience: Vehicle sagas. 1479 kilometres. 2 days of travelling. Mini-busses. Pit-stops. Biltong. Wimpy coffee. Wrong turns. Dirt roads. Sand storms. Stray cats. Small towns. Passports. And that was only on the trip up to Windhoek.



The endless road to Namibia and our final destination



Sandstorm at Vioölsdrift,

ASSA 2012 was a memorable experience for the UCT delegates, and for many of the students, this was their first time attending a conference. The networking such a gathering provides is invaluable, and ASSA 2012 was no different. The casual setting allowed many opportunities to meet other colleagues in one’s field or other related fields, and the mere mention of a presentation topic sparked hours of conversation.



Socialising!

At ASSA 2012, not only did we celebrate the 40th anniversary of the conference, but we joined UNAM in celebrating their excellent new teaching facility. We were extremely impressed by the technologically advanced teaching and dissection laboratories, and took back many ideas for changes we would like to implement at our own university.



Cats galore at the accommodation in Windhoek

From a social perspective, spending what totalled to 4 days in a car with colleagues created the opportunity for us all to get to know each other

better, share laughs, stories and the beautiful landscape as we travelled.

Thank you to all the ASSA 2012 delegates, and to the UNAM School of Medicine for making this year's conference so enjoyable.



Saviour 'illegally' hiking

Achievements: Well done to all! Bruce Dando and Vernon Fourie won the best prize in the Technical workshop at the ASSA 2012 Conference for their beautifully plastinated specimens of the heart and GIT. Britta Kleeman won second prize in the oral presentations at the recent Physiology Conference hosted in Stellenbosch. Belinda Speed attained her Masters degree and Natalie Boonzaaier will start her PhD at Cambridge University in the UK in October.

Workshop attended: Petra Maass (Masters student) and some of the Honours students (Devin Finnaughty, Shelley Ma and Simone Tredoux) attended the 5-day Workshop on the Interpretation of Bone Trauma Analysis in Medicolegal Investigations, hosted by the Forensic Anthropology Research Centre, at the University of Pretoria. They found this workshop very informative and useful.



From left – Simone, Shelley & Devin at a workshop session

University of Johannesburg

Anatomy section of the Department of Human Anatomy and Physiology

Elaine Swanepoel

Nkosi Xakaza is currently in the end-stages of submitting his MSc (Arterial variations) for marking, and although the light at the end of the tunnel is still dim, it is at least approaching. Not quick enough for him though, as they are expecting their second child at the end of October – so the sleepless nights working on the MSc will just be replaced by the not-so-subtle noises of a new-born.

Shahed Nalla is currently busy with his PhD studies (Malapa fossils) and reported on this at various national and international conferences this year. He has also embarked on a new venture as the Vice-dean of the Faculty of Health Sciences.

Elaine Swanepoel has had a wonderful experience collecting data for her PhD studies (Monk's Kop and Dambarare) in Zimbabwe. Although she is not at the stage of seeing any lights in the tunnel (except the approaching PhD-train☺), she has reported on her progress at both national and international conferences.

University of Namibia

Department of Anatomy, Faculty of Health Sciences

Willie Vorster

Report on MEPI Medical Education Workshop, June 6-8 2012. Held at Stellenbosch University, Tygerberg: The aim of the workshop was to build high quality, cost-effective, relevant medical education initiatives which is an essential component of effectively strengthening health systems to achieve positive impacts in population health. The Medical Education Partnership Initiative (MEPI) Workshop aimed to provide a platform for discussing best practices and innovations in five focus areas: community-oriented education; faculty development; competency-based education; technology-assisted education; and postgraduate medical education. While other MEPI initiatives have focused on evaluation, coordination and research. This workshop focused exclusively on medical education. Podcasts from the MEPI

Workshop plenary sessions were available on the MEPI website after the workshop: <http://mepinetwork.org/>

Highlights of day one: Dr Kate Tulenko delivered a talk on the input from 13 MEPI schools in a survey on Major challenges and Best Practices & Innovations and suggested tools to evaluate bridges to its employment and suggested a conceptional model of health professional education systems in sub-Saharan Africa.

Dr Francis Omaswa (Uganda) said that we must train doctors to use their 5 senses when examining patients in rural areas. If training is too high tech (MRI, sonar etc.) they will not be able to practice in rural areas. He also stressed Needs Based Education to lead to Competency/Outcome Based Education in Africa. Nelson K. Sewankambo, Principal of Makerere University, College of Health Sciences showed how Transformative Education can change the world. He warned though that there needed to be a political will to implement a successful program in linking Education and Health systems.

Prof Juanita Bezuidenhout (Stellenbosch) and Dr Ellie Hamburger (MEPI) delivered a plea for Medical Education Research and suggested a program for establishing Medical Education Departments, career advancement opportunities for clinical educators, as well as scholarships of teaching to contribute towards new teaching innovations.

The afternoon sessions dealt with Community Oriented (Based) Education. Talks were presented by Dr Zohay Talip (MEPI coordinating centre), Dr HOFFIE Conradie (Stellenbosch), Prof Atiene Sagay (Nigeria) and Prof Ian Couper (Wits). The main theme was that Medical schools should equip students with competencies for rural medical service provision. It should be an International Primary Health care approach, giving Generalist care (need enough skills), be a Proceduralist and eventually a Public Health Expert.

Highlights of day two: Dr Barry Kistnasamy (National Institute of Occupational Health) reported on the Commission on Health Professions for the 21st century (The Lancet report). The report suggests a new outlook to Health Professions training to have a Global outlook; Focus on all Health professions beyond traditional silos, with emphasis on medicine,

nursing and public health; Long-term perspective on post-secondary education; Integrative framework; New vision driving specific recommendations. Thus moving to Systems Based, competency driven, local-global, Health and Education Systems. With Africa's burden of World diseases at 25%, and the Doctors, Medical Schools etc. only making up 1.3% of the world the following global village is relevant.

The World...Village (n=100)

- 57 Asians
- 21 Europeans
- 14 Americans
- 8 Africans

Additional statistics:

- 52 women & 48 men
- 80 persons living in poverty
- 70 illiterate
- 50 suffering from hunger & malnutrition
- 1 person with a university degree
- 1 person with a computer

Lueddeke GR. 2012

The rest of the day was taken up with discussions on Faculty recruitment and retention which is a worldwide problem, but more so experienced by all African MEPI Medical schools at the meeting.

Dr Maggie Brewinski-Isaacs (HRSA), Prof James Kiare (Nairobi) and Dr Art Kaufman (New Mexico) suggested various ways to counter this. All MEPI Schools have Faculty improvement programs, FAIMER/SAFRI fellowships, as well as post graduate training. They feel that Faculty exchange (North/South) should improve, more visiting professors and lecturers, research grants for locally relevant research and Medical Education support through Teaching and Learning Centres.

There were also more discussions on Competency-based Education. Ben van Heerden (Stellenbosch) said that the primary driver should be the health needs of the Health System and the curriculum should be planned to reach the competency outcomes. Drs Iputo (Transkei) and Kiguli (Uganda) said that the competencies needed for the Health worker in the rural areas should be addressed in the teaching and must involve all Health workers; doctors, nurses, dentists and pharmacists.

Highlights of day three: The last day was utilised in discussing various new and existing Technology-assisted and post graduate

Medical Education. Dr Jim Scott (George Washington University), Lucy Kilewa (Tanzania) and Prof Fatima Suleman (KZN) highlighted the need for e-learning, distance learning, video conferencing and e-granary digital libraries as the numbers of students increase all the time whereas the teaching staff stayed the same. Problems that exist include IT systems and technicians to run it, Power cuts (extra generator), off line accessibility, intensive training for the academic staff and for the end users.

The session on post graduate teaching was highlighted by contributions by Dr Sandy Pillay (KZN) who presented a very positive picture of the Academic staff of KZN University with one third holding a PhD as well. They use the ENTRÉE Research Methodology (REMETH) system and have 15 successful candidates in 2012. Drs Emilia Noormahomed and Anna Olga Mocumbi (Mozambique) mentioned that they had 267 doctors, but less than 50 in Surgery, Internal Medicine, Pediatrics and Gine and Obs. Their main problems are that they study with Government sponsored overseas grants and after graduation they do not return to their countries. Family Medicine is not acknowledged as a specialty field in African countries and the universities have difficulty in setting up such a MMed program.

It was an exceptional workshop highlighting the whole Medical teaching program from all 13 MEPI Medical Schools, their successes and problems experienced. The main message is that we can achieve a lot by working closer together and concentrate on the unique opportunity to expand the Community (Based) Oriented Education program in Africa, as it should be the core focus of our teaching and where it is of the utmost importance for the community.

The following delegates with CONSAMS connections were present at the meeting: Botswana University: Prof Matthew Tango, Dr Oathokwa Nkomazana, Dr George Mokore and Dr Ludo Badlangama.

Lurio University: Dr Celso Belo and Dr Tatyana Matabeli.

UNAM: Prof Willie Vorster.

University of the Free State

Department of Basic Medical Sciences

Daleen Raubenheimer

The Department of Basic Medical Sciences, renders services to several different clinical disciplines in the Faculty of Health Sciences. Various clinical workshops are held in the department annually, and recently, the first international cardiothoracic research workshop was held in the Department on 7-8 June 2012. A heart sonar workshop was also presented by the Anaesthesiology Department in the Department of Basic Medical Sciences on 15 August 2012.



Cardiothoracic workshop held in the Department of Basic Medical Sciences from 7-8 June 2012

The Department also attempts to educate and inform prospective students at the UFS. The exhibition during the UFS Open day in 2012 was well supported by learners from several schools in and around Bloemfontein.



UFS Open day 2012



Open day attended by prospective students at the UFS

University of Pretoria

Department of Anatomy,
Ericka L'Abbe and Maryna Steyn

Workshop: Interpretation of Bone Trauma in Medicolegal Investigations. Forensic Anthropology Research Centre, 27 to 30 August 2012: *“Until recently, anthropological contributions to bone trauma analysis have been limited. A recent flurry of research has led to new awareness of skeletal trauma and a paramount need for forensic anthropologists to be involved. However, there are ramifications to the rapid interest and growth in bone trauma analysis. The main issue revolves around becoming an expert. Any analysis without training, testing, and experience creates the potential for misdiagnosis and inaccurate results. Unlike other areas of physical anthropology, the repercussions of irresponsible actions and unsubstantiated opinions are enormous. Whereas hypothesis formulation and testing is part of academia, the judicial system is the last place to formulate a hypothesis”* (Symes et al. 2012:382).

The research and tools necessary to comprehend the above-mentioned issues have not paralleled in production with the increase in demand for skeletal trauma analysis. Many professionals are still hesitant, ineffective or unable to adequately address skeletal trauma in a medico-legal setting. An absence in the proper utilization of skeletal trauma analysis may be due to a lack of understanding of bone biomechanics; a lack of proper training and exposure to cases; and the large void of reference material. While many forensic anthropologists are taught the theory of bone trauma analysis, few are exposed to the necessary case work to research the discipline or to feel experienced enough to

conduct their own analyses. In order to establish bone trauma analysis as a discipline in South Africa, forensic anthropologists and forensic pathologists need to engage in interdisciplinary education and research. For this reason, a workshop on the interpretation of bone trauma in medico-legal investigations was organized and presented. The KDF partially funded this endeavour.

The five-day workshop familiarized students and professionals with current analytical methods in the analysis and interpretation of bone trauma. Focus was on the differentiation of healed, fresh and pseudo-trauma; recognition and preliminary interpretation of bone trauma at autopsy; and biomechanical interpretations of bone trauma in the laboratory. Extensive hands-on opportunities with demonstration, cast, and case-study specimens were also provided.



Jeanine Cocks, Kavita Lakha & João Pinheiro

Professor Steven A. Symes, Mercyhurst University, and Professor João Pinheiro, Coimbra University, provided perspectives on bone trauma interpretation from a forensic anthropologist and forensic pathologist, respectively. While well-known in South Africa for his work with the NPA as well as research collaboration and case work in the Department of Anatomy at the University of Pretoria, Professor Symes is a leading authority on saw and knife mark analysis, in specific, and bone trauma, in general. He is one of less than 100 American Board certified Forensic Anthropologists in North America (D-ABFA) and is a sought-after consultant in criminal cases, both nationally and internationally. The majority of this work has been tested on individual cases; disseminated in the classroom; presented at professional conferences; published; and reproduced in the courtroom.

Professor Pinheiro also had extensive experience in human rights cases in Europe. He was the leader and coordinator of a research project on sudden infant death syndrome (SIDS) in Portugal for several years and recently co-authored and co-edited a book entitled, *Forensic Anthropology and Forensic Medicine: Complementary Sciences From Recovery to Cause of Death*.



João Pinheiro (left) & Steven Symes (right)

Hosting two world-renowned bone trauma specialists, both a forensic anthropologist and pathologist, offered a unique opportunity to postgraduate students and professionals in forensic sciences in South Africa and enabled education, development and expansion of bone trauma analysis. The course was attended by 39 people, including postgraduate students and lecturers from UCT, SUN, WITS, and UP; forensic pathologists from Cape Town, Bloemfontein, Garankuwa and Knysna; and the SAPS Victim Identification Center in Pretoria. For those who are interested, similar workshops are to be offered in 2013 at the University of Pretoria. Please contact Prof EN L'Abbé (ericka.labbe@up.ac.za) for more details.

Extraordinary Professor: In September 2012, Dr. Steven A. Symes became an Extraordinary Professor in the Department of Anatomy, University of Pretoria. Since 2008, Prof SA Symes has contributed his time and experience in research and case work on bone trauma with both myself (Ericka L'Abbé) and my students in the Department of Anatomy at the University of Pretoria. He has presented three workshops (2009, 2010 and 2012), participated in student supervision, research design and case analysis. In 2012, Prof SA Symes, Prof EN L'Abbé and co-authors published a book chapter on "Interpreting Traumatic Injury to Bone for Medicolegal Investigations" in A Companion to

Forensic Anthropology (Dirkmaat, DC, Editor). They also presented two papers on hyoid bone fractures and mechanism of injury at the 64th Annual American Academy of Forensic Sciences Meeting from February 20 to 25, 2012. They are currently working to expand this project to include additional international colleagues and data resources.

Conference Attendance in Forensic Sciences: Ericka L'Abbé attended and presented her research as well as the research of her postgraduate students at the 64th Annual American Academy of Forensic Sciences from 20 to 25 February, 2012 in Atlanta, Georgia. Several postgraduate students from the Department of Anatomy have submitted abstracts and are planning to attend and to present their research at the 65th Annual American of Forensic Sciences in Washington, DC next year.

Maryna Steyn was on sabbatical leave for the first 7 months of 2012. Most of this time was spent on writing the 3rd edition of "*The human skeleton in forensic medicine*" by MY Iscan and M Steyn. The second volume was authored by WM Krogman and MY Iscan. This book will be published by Charles C Thomas (Springfield), and will hopefully appear in 2013.

During this time, Maryna Steyn and Coen Nienaber formed part of the professional team that went to Angola to repatriate the remains of 4 South African soldiers who died at Ebo during the Border War. On Sunday 23 November 1974 two groups of Eland armoured cars moved towards a bridge over the Massaba River north of Ebo. The driver of the first car, Trooper Niel Lombard was fatally wounded when they drove into a FAPLA ambush at the bridge. His body could not be retrieved, and he was buried next to the road by the local community. The other 3 victims were together in a light Cessna reconnaissance aircraft that was shot down by FAPLA on 25 November 1975. Second Lt Williamson was the pilot. He was accompanied by 2nd Lt Thompson and Capt Taljaard. Once again, the remains of the victims were buried by members of the local community.



Maryna & Coen during excavations

During the 1st excavation attempt, the communal grave of the three aircraft victims were found, with the remains intermingled with various parts of the wreck. Unfortunately the excavation was halted by heavily armed members of the army and police, and all members of the team were transported back to Luanda in a 14 hour nightmare trip. No clear reasons for this were given, and the team was forced to leave Angola. During a 2nd attempt, the team was accompanied by members of the RSA embassy and government officials, and the poorly preserved remains of the 3 victims could be excavated and repatriated. Unfortunately the grave of Trooper Niel Lombard could not be found.

The remains of the 3 soldiers were ceremoniously reburied at the wall of Remembrance at the Voortrekker Monument on 8 July 2012, bringing closure to the families involved.



Ceremonial burial at Voortrekker Monument

**Department of Anatomy and Physiology,
Faculty of Veterinary Science
Martina Crole**

Undergraduate teaching: 2012 has been an interesting and challenging year so far. The

Department presented two brand new courses for the new veterinary curriculum to a larger than expected group of 150 students. Most of the hiccups in presenting the new curriculum were related to the large group size as well as the concurrent running of the old curriculum along with the new. This left us in the undesirable position of presenting two almost identical anatomy courses to two different years of veterinary students. However, this has been a valuable learning curve and we look forward to next year being able to focus on only one undergraduate veterinary anatomy course.

Departmental achievements: Well done to Mrs Erna van Wilpe and Mrs Lizette du Plessis from the Electron Microscopy Unit. Erna was conferred her MSc degree (Liver and Gallbladder morphology of the Nile crocodile, *Crocodylus niloticus* (Laurenti 1768)) in the September graduation ceremony and Lizette is in the final stages of completing her PhD and was awarded the “New Researcher of the Year Award 2012” at the annual Faculty Day for the Faculty of Veterinary Science.

Local conferences: Prof John Soley and Dr Martina Crole attended the 40th Annual ASSA Congress in Windhoek, Namibia, where Martina presented research from her PhD entitled: “What prevents ratites from choking?” Members of the Department will also be attending and presenting at the 50th Annual Microscopy Society of Southern Africa (MSSA) Conference held in Cape Town at UCT. Martina will again present work from her PhD entitled: “As rare as emu “teeth”, John will be presenting on behalf of his PhD student, Lizette du Plessis, on her work entitled: “Spermiogenesis in ratites as a phylogenetic character” and Erna Van Wilpe will be presenting research from her recently completed MSc on “Hepatic sinusoidal particularities of the juvenile crocodile, *Crocodylus niloticus*”, co-authored by her promotor, Prof Herman Groenewald.

International conferences: John Soley and Lizette du Plessis attended the 8th Biennial Conference for the Association for Applied Animal Andrology (AAAA) in Vancouver, Canada. The conference was held from the 28-29th July 2012, and was one of the satellite meetings for the International Conference on Animal Reproduction. The theme of this year’s conference was “Quality Assurance and Biosecurity in the Globalized Andrology

Laboratory". The oral presentation by Lizette: "A novel structure with phylogenetic implications found in ratite spermatids" was one of the selected abstract presentations. A poster entitled: "The role of the centriolar complex in the formation of sperm defects in the emu, *Dromaius novaehollandiae*" was also presented at the AAAA meeting.



John & Lizette with the President of the AAAA, Dr Peter Chenoweth from Australia.

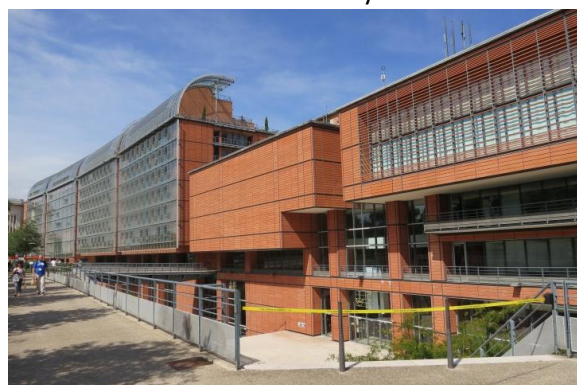
Professor Ken Booth has been invited to be a part of the 1st International Congress on Behavioural Medicine and Semiochemistry from Welfare to Therapeutics which will be held on 15 – 17 November 2012 in Apt, Provence, France. The conference is sponsored by the Research Institute for Semiochemistry and Applied Ethology (IRSEA) and Professor Booth will be involved not only as Chairman of the Conference Scientific Committee but he will also deliver the Conference Opening Lecture entitled: "The Vomeronasal Organ: A Lost Continent for Veterinary Medicine" and deliver a platform paper of his latest research publication (2011) entitled: "Pheromone Regulation of Ovulation in Does". IRSEA, the sponsoring body, is a little known research institution that has (over the last 17 years) developed and marketed (through CEVA – the French pharmaceutical company) over 90 artificially produced pheromones mainly related to the control of animal behaviour. The conference that IRSEA is sponsoring will include pheromone effects in such varied topics as: Animal Welfare, Behavioural Medicine, Husbandry, Chemical Communication, Stress Evaluation and Management, Host/Parasite Interaction, Sustainable Management of Competitor Species, Attachment and Early Interactions (Mother/Offspring), Biomolecular Aspects of Chemical Communication, Neurophysiology and

Semiochemical Perception, and Clinical and Applied Semiochemistry. The conference has attracted researchers from practically every corner of the world from the United States of America to Australia. Professor Booth will represent South Africa at the conference.

University of Stellenbosch

**Division of Anatomy and Histology,
Department of Biomedical Sciences, Faculty
of Medicine and Health Sciences
Sanet Kotzé**

International conferences attended: Dr Sanet Kotzé attended and presented a poster at the AMEE 2012 conference in Lyon, France in August this year. The conference was held in the impressive and enormous Lyon Conference centre and was attended by over 3000 delegates with an interest in medical education. There were delegates from all over the world and it was interesting to hear that everyone faces the same challenges in teaching medical students! There were 30 parallel sessions at any time including workshops, short presentations, poster sessions and excellent plenary lectures. The sessions on teaching the basic sciences were insightful and included many contributions on innovative approaches to the teaching of anatomy. Sanet also presented this poster at the annual Stellenbosch University Fund for Innovation and Research into Learning and Teaching (FIRLT) Conference held annually at the Lord Charles Hotel in Somerset West in May 2012.



Part of the Lyon Conference facility

Mrs. Linda Greyling (Senior lecturer) and Elsje-Marie Geldenhuis (PhD student) were the only delegates from South Africa to attend and present contributions at the 4th International Symposium of Clinical and Applied Anatomy

(ISCAA) and 14th National Anatomy Congress of Turkey which were held simultaneously in June 2012 in Ankara, Turkey. The main topic of the conference was clinical anatomy and covered such aspects as neurosciences, developmental biology, morphological anatomy, general clinical anatomy, orofacial biology, physical anthropology, and teaching of the anatomical sciences, as seen from a clinical viewpoint. The International Symposium was well attended with over 700 delegates, mostly from Central and Eastern European and Middle Eastern countries, but also as far as South America. Linda and Elsje-Marie made contact with colleagues of the Federative International Program on Anatomical Terminology and had the opportunity to discuss and plan future collaboration which included computerizing all anatomical, histological, embryological and anthropological terminology. This includes an emphasis on the Afrikaans terminology used in Anatomy and Histology. The Anatomical Society of Southern Africa was also invited to contribute to the endeavour. All abstracts were published in a special edition (Supplement) of The International Journal of Experimental and Clinical Anatomy, Volume 6, 2012. This journal is the official publication of the Turkish Society of Anatomy and Clinical Anatomy.



Linda & Elsje-Marie waiting for a session to start

Dr Venand Tchokonte-Nana attended the annual Islet Society Meeting in Stockholm, Sweden in July 2012 where he bided successfully to host the 2014 Islet Meeting in the city of Cape Town, the first time this meeting will be held on African soil. He was awarded the NRF Thuthuka grant for the next five years for the research entitled Beta Cell Replacement Therapy. He also won the prestigious African Collaboration Grant to visit

two African Universities for a visiting Professorship in Anatomy.



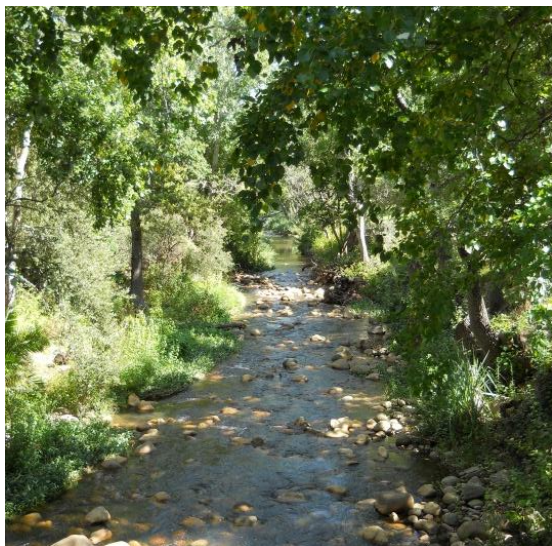
Workshop attended: Mandi Alblas (Lecturer) attended a 5-day Workshop on the Interpretation of Bone Trauma Analysis in Medicolegal Investigations on how to analyse bone trauma of skeletal material, hosted by the Forensic Anthropology Research Centre, Department of Anatomy, Faculty of Health Sciences at the University of Pretoria. She found this workshop very informative and gave her the knowhow to analyse bone trauma in our Kirsten Skeletal Collection.

Stellenbosch University Academic Year Day: All academic personnel and post graduate students in the department gave presentations or presented posters at the 56th Academic Year Day of the Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences, Stellenbosch University.

Stellenbosch University Open Day: On the 3 Augustus 2012 the University of Stellenbosch had an Open Day in the student centre (Neelsie) in Stellenbosch. All faculties and departments were represented so that school pupils from all over the Western Cape, parents and teachers could visit and get information about future study courses. As usual, the Anatomy Morphology Museum was part of the Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences exhibition area was a source of fascination for pupils and teachers. The question heard most frequently was: "Is it real?!!" Seeing 50+ learners listening and asking questions around the anatomy exhibition tables was the norm for the day. Staff from our department did a great job demonstrating and answering questions on what anatomy entails. During Open Day schools are encouraged to visit the Museum at the Tygerberg campus.

Into the future (2014!): Diarize and plan to attend the ASSA conference in April 2014. This

conference will be hosted by the Department and will be held in the picturesque and historic town of Stellenbosch and will be an event not to be missed!



The beautiful Eerste River in Stellenbosch

University of Kwazulu Natal



No news!

University of the Western Cape

Department of Biomedical Sciences, New Life Science Building
Sahar Abdul-Rasool



The Department of Medical Biosciences manages the “cutting-edge” Anatomy Facility which is home to the instruction of gross anatomy, embryology, histology and physiology teaching. In

February 2010, the facility was fully certified and its operation is governed by the human tissue act.

The facility includes the Anatomy laboratory which is an outstanding teaching laboratory that can cater for 360 students at a time. Numerous LCD display screens and the latest digital projection equipment are used to convey teaching information.

The lab is further supported by the Anatomy museum which displays a large collection of models, posters, plastinated and preserved specimens. These are made available for the students to examine during their practical sessions. Teaching tools also include skeletons, bones and digital software.

An embalming suite is attached to the facility together with a small surgical theatre for small group dissection and specimen preparation. It also houses a cadaver reception and storage area.

The facility is currently utilized by students at various disciplines (e.g. Medical Biosciences, Pharmacy, Occupational and Physiotherapy). Our future aim is to expand our teaching to include the dentistry students.

The anatomy cluster consists of seven academic staff members and three technical staff members. Research conducted by members of the Anatomy cluster focuses on the following:

- Clinical Anatomy.
- Neuroprotective effects of pharmaceutical products and herbal extracts against potential damage caused by chemical toxicants, irradiation and diseases using *in vitro*, *ex vivo*, *in ovo* and *in vivo* models.
- Molecular Oncology.
- Comparative sperm biology, with emphasis on sperm morphometry and sperm motility. Variations in structural and functional aspects of sperm mitochondria. Relationship between sperm structure and sperm selection. Applications of computer-aided sperm analysis in fertility studies.
- Research on the effects of traditional African medicinal plants on mammalian reproduction and testicular cell physiology.
- Real time analysis of physiological events inside the cell using cutting-edge fluorescence vital cell imaging.
- Morphological effects of water on male reproductive organs and reproduction.

University of the Witwatersrand

School of Anatomical Sciences

Desiré Brits

Mrs Desiré Brits attended a number of forensic anthropology short courses during July 2012 i.e. human identification in forensic anthropology, forensic taphonomy and advanced laboratory methods in forensic anthropology, at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, Tennessee, USA. "This was an amazing experience during which I had the opportunity to meet Dr Bill Bass and also visit the world renowned 'Body Farm'".

Miss Erin Hutchinson attended the Cranial and Postcranial Juvenile Osteology for Forensic and Archaeological Practitioners Course during the July and August 2012. It was hosted by the Centre for Anatomy and Human Identification at the University of Dundee Scotland. The course provided participants the unique opportunity to study the juvenile osteological remains housed in the Scheuer Collection as well as interact with experts in the field of Juvenile Osteological research.

Erin Hutchinson and Desiré Brits also attended the 6th European Academy of Forensic Sciences (EAFS) conference held in The Hague, Netherlands in August 2012. This biannual conference brings together various disciplines within the field of forensic sciences. Erin presented the first component of her PhD in an oral presentation entitled, "The effects of tongue growth on the foetal and paediatric mandible" as well as a poster presentation entitled, "An assessment of the bony hard palate within a South African population". Desiré reported on some results from her PhD in a poster presentation entitled, "Assessing the accuracy of the soft tissue correction factor for stature estimation in black South African females".

Erin Hutchinson presented another component of her PhD study entitled "Osteological changes in the mental region of the immature mandible" at the International Association of Dental Research (IADR), South African chapter held at Emperor's Palace, Johannesburg.

Walter Sisulu University



No news!

In memoriam

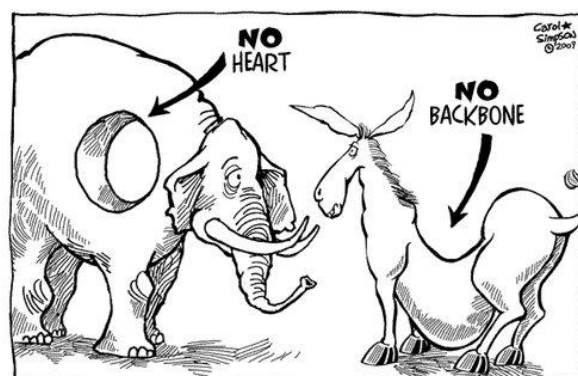
For: Prof Tobias

Phillip Tobias' death earlier this year has been a sort of landmark for many of us. I was his student full time from January 1975 to July 1979 and then part time for another four years. I guess he did take on a sort of parental figure for me, and like all parents, he was supposed to always be there when you needed him. Sadly, as of the 7th of July 2012, this is no longer the case. Tributes to Phillip have been rolling in from the day of his death and it is really unnecessary to repeat the accolades that have been written about him. For ASSA, he was one of the seminal figures who were there from day 1, and although his attendance had been intermittent as age crept up on him in the last few years, he attended nearly all of the annual conferences over the years. ASSA without Phillip will be hard to imagine, but we will get by because of his legacy.

By Alan Morris

Finally....

The anatomy of politics...



Let us ensure that this does not become the 'politics' of teaching Anatomy!