



NEWSLETTER OF THE ANATOMICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTHERN AFRICA 2015

IN THIS ISSUE...

Message from the President of ASSA
43rd Annual Conference of the Anatomical
Society of Southern Africa
44th Annual Conference of the Anatomical
Society of Southern Africa

News from:

University of the Free State
University of the Witwatersrand
University of Namibia
University of Stellenbosch
Sefako Makgatho Health Sciences
University
University of Pretoria:
 Faculty of Veterinary Science
 Faculty of Health Sciences
University of Johannesburg
University of Kwazulu-Natal
University of Cape Town

International news:

News from abroad
International Federation of Associations
of Anatomists (IFAA)

We need your help

Upcoming event

Obituary – Professor Willie Vorster

EDITOR'S CORNER

Contained within the following pages is a plethora of achievements, awards, prizes, grants, publications, graduations, workshops, collaborations and conferences to mentioned a few and congratulations are in order all round!

A huge round of applause is also due to Mr Human and his team from Sefako Makgatho Health Sciences University for an exceptional ASSA 2015 – go paintball team! We are also extremely excited about ASSA 2016 and would like to wish Dr Sanet van Zyl and her team all the best with the organization of the upcoming Bloemfontein conference.

Apart from all our successes and celebrations we were also immensely saddened by the passing of Professor Willie Vorster. He was a family-man, a friend, a colleague, a mentor, and a supervisor. He will be sorely missed by all who knew him.

I am happy to announce that our ASSA website (www.anatomysa.co.za) is up and running and we have had a significant increase in traffic, with visitors from around the globe. A special note of thanks to Mr Tony Meadows for his assistance with the design, creation and maintenance of the website.

I would like to thank each and every one for their contribution to the newsletter; without your news-worthy items there would be no newsletter. I would also like to thank Mrs Jennefer

Hesk for her editorial assistance and Mr Leon du Plessis for assistance with the publication of the news letter.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish you and yours all the best over the festive season and look forward to a fruitful and productive 2016.

Best wishes,

Desiré Brits

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF ASSA

We are coming to the end of another busy year, with most of us preparing for exams and then a well-earned rest. Once again it was a year filled with many events, as well as good and bad news. In particular, it was with great sadness that we learned of the passing of Professor Willie Vorster. He was a great friend and valued colleague to us all, and will be sorely missed. Our thoughts go out to Albie and his family. I would like to thank Jan Smit for writing an obituary, published elsewhere in this newsletter.

I would like to thank Henry Human and his team from Sefako Makgatho University (SMU) for the very successful and enjoyable conference they organized for us in Parys. Your attention to detail was exceptional, and we were very happy to have a bit of rest and recreation too! Thank you for all your efforts. We are also looking forward to the 2016 ASSA conference (8-11 May), organized by Sanet van Zyl, Daleen Raubenheimer and colleagues from the University of the Free State.

The shortage of cadaver material seems to remain one of the burning issues at all universities. Several of us have been involved in media drives etc. to try and improve the situation, and Council is very interested to get your feedback on your current status and

whether the publicity has made any difference. Please note that we now also have something on body donation on our ASSA website, with the contact details of people responsible for donations at various universities. Please have a look at it and let us know if we should expand this section. Council also wrote to the HPCSA to ask that they more specifically state what they require regarding Anatomy training (specifically pertaining to the use of cadaver material) for health professionals, but we have had no feedback from them.

Thank you to everyone who contributed to this newsletter – from the various departments to news from IFAA. Thank you once again to Desiré Brits for all her hard work to put it all together.

I wish you all of the best for the remainder of the year, and hope you have a very restful time during the holiday season.

With best wishes,



Professor Maryna Steyn

43rd ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF THE ANATOMICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTHERN AFRICA (ASSA 2015)

– A BEHIND THE SCENE PERSPECTIVE –



ASSA 2015, Khaya iBhubesi Conference Venue, Parys, Free State

The 43rd Annual Conference of the Anatomical Society of Southern Africa was an extraordinary meeting of delegates from the Universities of Southern Africa. The “academic program” started with a viewing of the lion feeding followed by the Thomson Stibbe lecture that was presented by Professor Shingai Mutambirwa. Professor Mutambirwa is the Head of the Department of Urology at Dr George Mukhari Academic Hospital at the Sefako Makgatho Health Sciences University. Professor Mutambirwa is a renowned expert and personality on radio, television and in public; with talks that include several topics on men’s health. Two interest groups, namely the Clinical Anatomy (CAIG) and Forensic Anthropology (FAIG) Interest Groups, ran symposia on the 1st and 2nd day of the conference, followed by general sessions on Clinical Anatomy, Anthropology and Medical Education. The “academic conference” concluded with a parallel session for a technical group discussion and a workshop on the use of Riddel, an evaluation software program which allows large

numbers of students to be effectively evaluated. This year, a complete separate Technical ASSA was hosted for technical representatives and other interested parties to engage with each other, discuss problems experienced and learn (or improve) technical techniques. The Technical ASSA was considered an invaluable experience by all who attended, based on new techniques learned, professional relationships built and the discussion of technical problems experienced at the different institutions. After the successful completion of this Technical ASSA, the hope remains that this addition will be established as a permanent extension of all future ASSA conferences.



Attendees of the Technical ASSA

Group activities and team fun with the support of the Sunflower fund

On Sunday, 10 May 2015 the delegates of the conference had the option of attending one activity in which they could partake; including quad biking, a game drive, archery, paint ball or abseiling. The Sunflower fund graciously sponsored bandanas for all the delegates, which all wore during these activities. Oh, and sports it was! The activities were greatly enjoyed by all, and the delegates mingled and learned more about each other. Some even had “war-scars” to prove their commitment to the cause. Ranging from smaller marks and scratches to some more severe which included Dr Martina Crole with her archery scars and Dr Albert van Schoor with his paintball wounds!!



“Quad bike” team



“Archery” team



“Game-drive” team



“Paintball” team



“Abseiling” team

A Gala-dinner to remember...

The Gala-dinner and award ceremony was held on the last night (Tuesday, 12 May 2015) of the conference and what a night it was!! In great spirit, the delegates were dressed according to the theme of the evening, “Night at the races – black and white with a dash of yellow”. The evening was kind-heartedly sponsored by Old Mutual and included live entertainment by the performing duo, CH2. These gentlemen fascinated the

delegates with their extraordinary display of musical talent and once all the formalities

were concluded, the party started (as clearly evident on the pictures below)...



Mrs Gerda Venter and Mrs Lané Prigge

44th ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF THE ANATOMICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTHERN AFRICA (ASSA 2016)



Dear Colleagues and Friends,

The Local Organising Committee cordially invites you on behalf of the Anatomical Society of Southern Africa to register and submit abstracts for the 44th Annual Conference of the Anatomical Society of Southern Africa to be held from 8-11 May 2016 at the Bloemfontein Hotel Spa and Conference Centre in Bloemfontein, Free State. The theme of this conference will be *Anatomy, inspiring life into learning!*

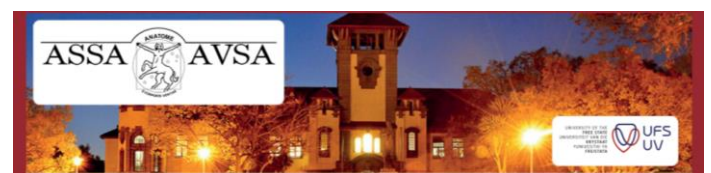
The ASSA conference serves as a platform where local and international colleagues present their research on an annual basis, exchange ideas and key developments in the field while enjoying the collegial atmosphere. The conference will focus on a broad spectrum of interesting topics, including clinical and comparative anatomy, physical and forensic anthropology, cell and molecular biology, histology, embryology and medical education.

We therefore invite you to submit abstracts for oral and poster presentations in any of the above categories.

The first invitation and abstract form are available on our website at <http://www.assacongress2016.co.za>. The final invitation and on-line registration facilities will be available on the website during November 2015.

The deadline for abstract submission will be 5 February 2016.

We are looking forward to your participation!



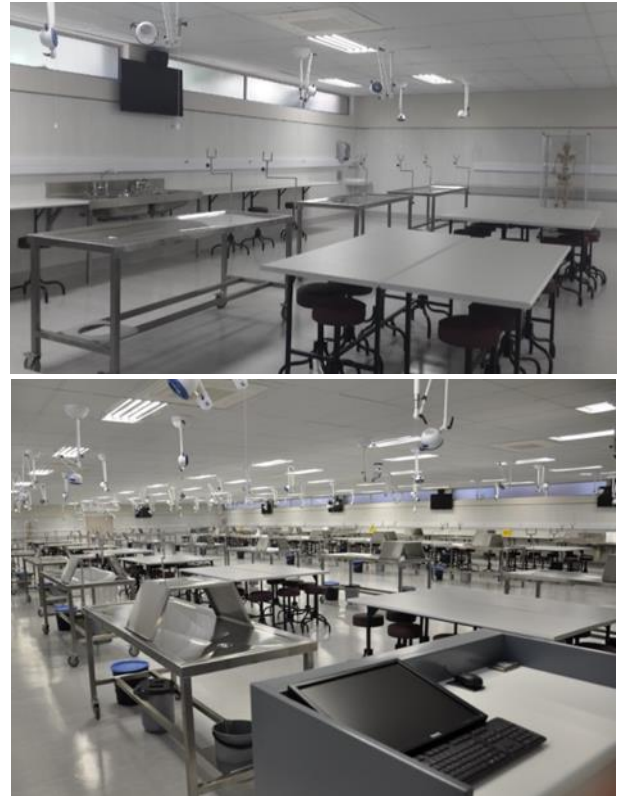
Dr Sanet van Zyl (Chair: Local Organizing Committee, ASSA 2016)

New Dissection Hall Facility

The new dissection hall for the Department of Basic Medical Sciences was completed in March 2015. The hall was newly built as the previous dissection hall has been used for undergraduate anatomy training since 1972. Due to a prospective growth in the number of medical students as well as changing methods in teaching and training, the need for a new, modern dissection hall became evident to ensure that students receive an optimal learning experience during dissection tuition.

The new spacious dissection hall is equipped with special lighting and modern equipment for the training of second-year medical students. The hall is further equipped with high quality sound and computer equipment. A unique camera system allows students to follow dissection demonstrations on ten screens in the hall. Dissection demonstrations are recorded, enabling lecturers to compile new visual aid material for teaching and learning.

The dissection programme for medical students is of critical importance, not only to acquire anatomical knowledge, but also for the development of critical skills and professionalism amongst medical students. This facility is also used for clinical workshops and postgraduate teaching seminars and workshops. This includes, among others, orthopaedic (shoulder, hip and knee workshops), otorhinolaryngology, cardiothoracic surgery (valve and endoscopy workshops) and anaesthesiology workshops. Both present and future generations of medical students will benefit from this new world class facility.



The new dissection hall facility

International Conference Attended



South Africans.”

Ms Leandi Liebenberg attended the 67th annual scientific meeting of the American Academy of Forensic Sciences in Orlando, Florida from 16-21 February 2015. She presented a paper titled: “Estimating ancestry from the postcrania of modern

Dr Daleen Raubenheimer

This was yet another exciting and busy year for the staff and students from the School of Anatomical Sciences. We were also joined by

Professor Maryna Steyn as the new Head of School of Anatomical Sciences.

Professor Lynne Schepartz published a new book with the Cotsen Institute of Archaeology, UCLA (University of California, Los Angeles): *The Excavation of the Prehistoric Burial Tumulus at Lofkënd, Albania (Monumenta Archaeologica)*. The two volumes present the results of a five year, multidisciplinary archaeological excavation of a prehistoric burial mound in rural Albania.

Dr Patrick Randolph-Quinney has been part of the Rising Star project from the start and was also involved in the exciting discovery of the new hominin species, *Homo naledi*. As a forensic anthropologist and taphonomist he developed the excavation and body recovery protocols and undertook analyses of weathering, skeletal damage patterns and other taphonomic processes. Wits researchers are at the forefront of applying forensic science and taphonomy back into the deep past, an emerging science which has been termed Palaeo-Forensics. Dr Randolph-Quinney was also author and co-author of a number of papers related to *Homo naledi*.

Local conferences and workshops

Annual Meeting of the Surgical Research Society of Southern Africa

In 2014 Dr Tanya Augustine did an oral presentation entitled “Immune-mediation alters the cytokine profile of hormone-dependent and hormone-independent breast cancer cells in a 3D in vitro culture system” at the Surgical Research Society Meeting of Southern Africa and was named the Scealess Antrobus Prize Winner. As the winner of this prestigious award she was invited by the Society of University Surgeons to deliver an oral presentation based on her research at the 10th Annual Academic Surgical Congress held in Las Vegas, USA, in February of this year. Dr Augustine also did an oral presentation at the 43rd Annual Meeting of the Surgical Research Society of Southern Africa

entitled “Promoting coagulation facilitated metastasis in breast cancer” and was awarded the Bert Myburgh Prize for her presentation. This prize includes representing the Society at one of its sister meeting in either the UK (ASSA) or Europe (ESSR) in 2016.

43rd Annual Conference of the Anatomical Society of Southern Africa

A number of staff and students attended ASSA 2015, including Professor Steyn, Professor Kramer, Dr Hartmann, Dr Essan, Ms Hutchinson, Ms D Brits, Mr J Davimes, Mr Z Leff, Mr N Bacci and Mr E Schiedmayer and presented a number of oral papers and posters. Nicholas Bacci was the 1st runner up for the Antoinette Kotze award for a first time oral presenter for his work entitled “Identification of Lightning Induced Trauma to the Skeleton” and Desiré Brits won the Bob Symington award for the best presenter younger than 35 years for her paper entitled “Stature estimation from the lower limb bones in Black South African sub-adult males”. The School also organized the Forensic Anthropology Interest Group (FAIG) Symposium. The title of this year’s symposium was “The Future of Forensic Anthropology in South Africa” and featured a number of guest speakers including Dr P Randolph-Quinney (Wits), Ms B Schrack (RadForensics LLC, USA), Col L Rossouw (SAPS), Professor M Steyn (Wits) and Professor EN L’Abbé (UP). During this symposium emphasis was placed on the application of forensic anthropology in various fields of research as well as the internationalization, standardization and accreditation of forensic anthropology in South Africa which lead to some avid discussions.

3D Imaging in a South African Context – An AESOP Workshop

Staff and students from the School of Anatomical Sciences as well as the Evolutionary Studies Institute attended this workshop which was held from 12-15 October. Mr Edward Odes, Dr Patrick Randolph-Quinney, Mr Jason Hemingway, Ms. Candice Small, Ms. Desiré Brits, Ms. Erin Hutchinson, Ms. Tshegofatso Ramphaleng and Dr Adebessin Abduljalil all from the School gave oral presentations on their current research. Mr Hemingway also organized and presented a “Geometric Morphometrics” workshop which was well received by the attendees.

International conferences and workshops

12th International Meeting of the Society of Neuroscientists of Africa

Dr Nadine Gravett, Dr Nyota Masumbuko-Kahamba, Joshua Davimes, Illke Philander, Brendon Billings, Alexis Chaumeton and Aude’Marie Maeva Limacher-Burrell attended the conference and were involved in oral and posters presentations. Dr Masumbuko-Kahamba won best poster presentation (IBRO Alumni Poster Prize) for her research entitled “Isolation, Culture and Neurogenic Differentiation of Human Dental Stem Cells”.

International Brain Research Organization (IBRO)/African Regional Committee (ARC) School on Neurotoxicity and Brain Disorders

The IBRO/ARC School on Neurotoxicity and Brain Disorder was hosted by the Hassan First University at the Golden Tulip Farah hotel, Khouribga, Morocco. Mr Oladiran Olateju was the only participant from South Africa to attend and did an oral presentation entitled “Neuronal generation in the hippocampus of adult mice is affected by chronic alcohol exposure during the fetal period”. His oral presentation received good

commendation and he won the award for the best oral presentation.

9th International Brain Research Organization (IBRO) World Congress

Dr Adhil Bhagwandin, Mr Brendon Billings and Mr Joshua Davimes recently travelled to Rio de Janeiro, Brazil to attend the 9th International Brain Research Organization (IBRO) World Congress. Mr Billings and Mr Davimes both did poster presentations which were well received and generated a lot of interest from fellow attendees. Mr Davimes was awarded the IBRO Alumni Best Poster Prize at the closing ceremony of the congress for his poster titled "Nuclear organization and morphology of the sleep related nuclei in the brain of the Arabian oryx, *Oryx leucoryx*".

Teaching tools workshop – Addis Ababa, Ethiopia 2015

Dr Chioma Blessing Uzokwe, Dr Tanya Calvey, Mr Pedzisai Mazengeny and Ms Illke Philander represented the School at the 8th Teaching Tools Workshop in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. The workshop was sponsored by the International Brain Research Organisation (IBRO), the International Society for Neurochemistry (ISN) and the Grass Foundation and consisted of an international faculty of neuroscientists from the USA, UK, Kenya as well as Professor Amadi Ihunwo from the School of Anatomical Sciences.

25th Biennial Meeting of the International Society for Neurochemistry

Dr Richard Chawana and Mr Joshua Davimes both delivered poster presentations at the 25th Biennial Meeting of the International Society for Neurochemistry, Cairns, Australia. At the conference Dr Chawana was elected to serve on the ISN Young Scientists Steering Committee representing the Europe-Africa region.



Dr Richard Chawana with Dr Dhanisha Jhaveri, from the University of Queensland, Australia (left) and Mr Joshua Davimes (right)

Drakensberg Mountains. The school's theme was "The Evolution of Sleep and Circadian rhythms" and was funded by the International Brain Research Organization (IBRO) and the International Society for Neurochemistry (ISN). Twenty students from all over Africa attended as well as five students from the School of Anatomical Sciences, including Joshua Davimes, Illke Philander, Brendon Billings, Alexis Chaumeton and Dr Nyota Masumbuko-Kahamba. The school was a great success with international lectures, workshops and group projects.

XXIV International Symposium on Morphological Sciences

The conference, held at the University of Istanbul, Turkey, was attended by staff and students from the School including Mr Pedzisai Mazenganya, Mr Pilani Nkomozepi, Ms Erin Hutchinson and Professor Beverley Kramer. Professor Kramer, in her capacity as President of the International Federation of Association of Anatomists (IFAA) gave one of the opening addresses, welcoming delegates to the Congress. Ms Hutchinson and Mr Nkomozepi presented papers while Mr Mazenganya presented a poster on their respective research.



Delegates from the IBRO-ISN Neuroscience School on "The evolution of sleep and circadian rhythms" in the Drakensberg Mountains, KZN, SA

16th Meeting of the International Association for Craniofacial Identification

Professor Maryna Steyn attended the meeting of the IACI in Tokyo, Japan, from 1-4 August 2015. She delivered an oral presentation entitled "Craniofacial identification in South Africa: current research and practice", co-authored by N Briers, E van der Westhuizen, TM Briers, and M Pretorius. She is also a member of the Board of Governors of this association.

Neuroscience School

Professor Paul Manger, Dr Nadine Gravett and Dr Adhil Bhagwandin organised a neuroscience school in March this year, in the

Awards

Sarima awards

"Africa needs to invest more resources in universities as a commitment to genuinely contributing to economic development and poverty and disease alleviation on the continent", said the Minister of Science and Technology, Naledi Pandor. Minister Pandor was speaking at the inaugural awards ceremony of the DST/Southern African Research and Innovation Management Association's (SARIMA) Excellence in Research and Innovation Management Awards ceremony. This ceremony, held in Johannesburg, celebrated excellence in research and innovation in Southern Africa. Professor Beverley Kramer, of the School of Anatomical Sciences at Wits and Assistant Dean for Research and Postgraduate Support in the Faculty of Health Sciences,

was the recipient of an award for Distinguished Contributions to the Research Management Profession which was presented by Minister Pandor.

Professor Kramer was also recently elected to Honorary Fellowship of the Anatomical Society for her role as a skilful international administrator along with her outstanding anatomical research and teaching career.



Professor Kramer receiving her reward from Minister Naledi Pandor

Mrs Desiré Brits

University of Namibia Department of Anatomy

As you are all aware, this was a very tragic and emotionally draining year for us as a Department, with the loss of our dear friend and colleague in the person of Professor Willie Vorster! May your spirit live on and may your soul rest in internal peace my friend!

I had the privilege of attending the 43rd Annual ASSA meeting in Parys with Willie earlier this year. Although already very ill at the time, Willie insisted to go to Parys. There we all had the privilege to hear him speak for the last time on “Valve-like structures in the renal arteries”. We also had the opportunity to spend some valuable time with him and witnessed him receiving the “ASSA Distinguished Member” award from the

President at the gala dinner event! Well done my friend and utterly deserved! Thanks to everyone that made it possible for “Oom Lieb” to be there for the event and to catch up with Willie on old times! Driving back to Oliver Tambo International airport afterwards with Willie, I witnessed his humble appreciation to have received this prestigious award and his surprise to all the warmth and friendly well wishes that he received! It meant a tremendous amount to him and gave him a real spiritual and emotional lift!! Thank you ASSA Council and members!



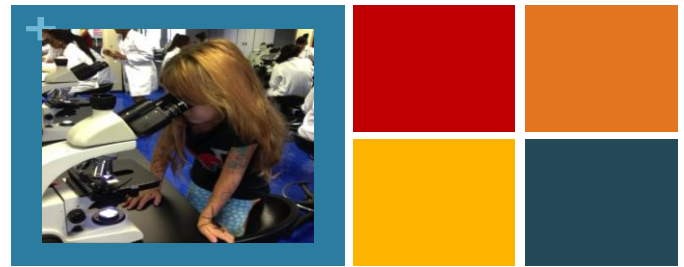
Prof Willie Vorster, the recipient of the Distinguished Member Award

Professor Jan Smit accompanied Willie to the Conference in Parys and delivered two papers. One was on “Education through the IAS” and the second on the “Levator Scapulae muscle”. Time was well spent on catching up with “old” friends at ASSA after an absence of fourteen years spend in Ireland. Professor Jan Smit was also elected to serve on the Council of ASSA at the meeting.

Towards the end of August, Professor Jan Smit and Mr Theuns Broekman (Technician) at UNAM, spend two weeks working at Bristol University in the UK. They went there to pack just under 1200 museum specimens that were donated by the IAS (Institute of Anatomical Sciences, UK), for relocation to the School of Medicine in Namibia. A project that have taken just over a year to come to

fruition and which was made possible by the generous sponsorships obtained from Mediclinic RSA, Lady Pohamba Private Hospital in Windhoek and money from the MEDUNAM Finish partnership at UNAM!

On the 2nd of September, Mr Broekman also attended a one day workshop on “pot-making techniques” and also used the opportunity to network with technicians from across the UK. Theuns and I then attended the Spring Annual conference of the IAS that was hosted by Bristol University on the 3rd and the 4th of September, before returning home to Namibia where we arrived on the Sunday the 6th. We are anxiously awaiting the arrival of the ship in Walvisbay with our shipment (container) of specimens!



HISTOLOGY PRACTICAL WORKSHOP 24-28 AUGUST 2015

During the August spring break the Anatomy department at UNAM, were the proud hosts of our first technical histology workshop ever! Twelve enthusiastic delegates from five different institutions were enrolled for the workshop. The School of Medicine at UNAM has state-of-the-art infrastructure, but up to recently, not the expertise to run and maintain the sophisticated and technically demanding histology laboratories. Therefore our Anatomy Department decided to host this workshop to build on and develop our existing staff output. By doing this, we engaged both private- and state laboratories to work in partnership with us. Namibian technicians are in need of the necessary skills to establish and manage proper service laboratories. This will eventually lead to the establishment of proper Anatomical/ Pathology laboratories which will benefit the whole health care sector. The workshop was planned in partnership with Professor Ben Page and his team at the Anatomy Department at Stellenbosch University. They were very helpful when we applied for the Stellenbosch Africa Collaboration Grant to sponsor the workshop. The Finish MEDUNAM project was also involved in funding expert researchers from Oulu Medical School to come and share their expertise with us.

We had such a great time and enthusiastic feedback from the delegates that we hope to run two smaller workshops in 2016. We intend to split into basic- and more advanced groups and concentrate on the specific needs for each of the groups.

Watch this space...



The UNAM + Bristol team



Shipment ready to go to the docks!

In the time that we were away, our colleagues at home had the following organised:

We had one new addition to our staff complement in the person of Mrs Denise Bouman. She was previously employed at the Central Veterinary Laboratories in Windhoek. She is currently busy with her final year BSc through UNISA. Professor Jan Smit was appointed as Acting HOD in Anatomy since September.



The delegates at the workshop

Professor Jan Smit

SUNskill (Advanced Surgical Skills Training Centre)

SUNskill is an extension of a post-graduate training program that has been in place in our department since 2008, where the cadaver platform has been made available for the training and re-training of specialists, including Neurosurgeons, Anaesthesiologists and especially Orthopaedic surgeons.

After the feedback by surgeons attending an international conference cadaver workshop, Medtronic, based in Dubai, were quick to respond to the glowing reports. Together with our division, the Division of Neurosurgery and Medtronic, initiated plans for the development of a state-of-the-art Neurosurgery training facility. The eight station centre will consist of multipurpose operating tables (C-Arm compatible Electro-Mechanical/Hydraulic), each with its own training microscope, theatre lights and advanced imaging equipment (2 C-Arms, one O-Arm), neuro-navigation (StealthStation S7 System), NIM-Neuro 3.0 nerve integrity monitoring system, NIM-Eclipse nerve monitoring system, Fusion ENT Navigation System and high speed drills to mention a few.

The establishment of this centre of excellence also includes a major upgrade of cadaver storage facilities, transport equipment and post use processing for skeletal retention. The lab will be the most advanced facility of its kind in Africa, the southern Hemisphere, Middle East and Asia. It is hoped that this centre of excellence will attract multiple workshops and training sessions from all over the world and across all disciplines and will be widely used. We are looking forward to its development in the near future.

Professor Page also spent time in September at UCLA in Los Angeles with Professor

Warwick Peacock gaining information about ways in which the teaching of Anatomy can be streamlined and goal-directed in order to train large numbers of clinically competent doctors.

Histology Workshop: University of Namibia, School of Medicine 17-29 August 2015

Dr Adele du Plessis, lecturer at the UNAM invited members from our department to participate in knowledge and skills transfer, regarding the development of a histology laboratory at UNAM. Mr Reggie Williams, Mr Romeo Lyners and Ms Mandi Alblas from our division were involved in the set-up of new equipment, as well as test-runs to ensure optimal functioning of all equipment prior to and during the workshop.

The workshop was organised by Dr Tuula Kaitso an ad hoc lecturer originally from the University of Oulu Finland. The workshop provided the basic theoretical knowledge needed for slide preparation, presented by Ms Mandi Alblas. This was followed by a practical session in which delegates were divided into groups of three and practiced the different steps needed for slide processing. These practical sessions continued for the rest of the week. Skills on specimen harvesting, embedding of specimens, sectioning and how to correctly follow staining protocols were taught. The workshop also included sessions on slide interpretation. Sessions on the correct safety procedures and good laboratory practice were undertaken by staff and delegates. The workshop was concluded with a remarkable session presented by Dr Kaitso who demonstrated images taken using electron microscopy and confocal microscopy. The workshop was a rewarding experience for all involved with delegates providing positive feedback. We are proud that our department could be part of this knowledge transfer.



Delegates during the practical sessions of the histology workshop, University of Namibia, School of Medicine

International conference attendance

International Congress of Clinical Anatomy, Rouen France, 24-27 June 2015

This conference was attended by Professor Sanet Kotzé and Dr Lené Burger from the Division of Forensic Pathology, SU. The conference afforded us the opportunity to meet with, and present our research to anatomists from various countries in Europe, the United Kingdom, Turkey, India and the United States. We were the only two delegates representing South Africa. It was interesting to note that many of the presentations were done by clinicians who have an interest in anatomy thereby underlying the clinical importance of anatomy as a subject.

Attending this conference also allowed us to meet with well-known anatomists and old friends such as Professor Steven Carmichael, (Mayo Clinic USA), current Vice President of

IFAA and Professor Peter Abrahams (Warwick University), UK. Professor Abrahams gave one of the plenary sessions entitled: "Leonardo Da Vinci: A 15th century anatomist whose conceptual ideas anticipated 21st century radiology". Of great interest was a plenary talk given by the pioneer of the world's first facial transplant, Professor Benoit Lengelé from Louvain in Belgium. He highlighted the importance of a sound knowledge of the segmental nature of the neurovascular supply to the face and its application in face transplants. He gave the latest information about the successes and progress made since the first transplant in 2005.



Professor Carmichael (right) with Professor Kotzé (left) and Dr Burger (middle) at the venue in Rouen

Professor BJ Page, Professor Sanet Kotzé and Ms Mandi Abbas

Research day at SMU

The first Research day program, for the new Sefako Makgatho Health Sciences University was held from 25-27 August 2015. During this program staff and students had the opportunity to present their research to the University community. The Human Anatomy Department was well represented and included presentations and posters by Mrs L Prigge, Mrs G Venter, Mrs N Mogale, Dr RT McNeil, Professor ED Green, Dr AA Adebessin and an undergraduate student Mr SP Schoeman. The following staff members received awards during the Gala dinner, which was held on the last day of the Academic program:

- **Mrs N. Mogale** was awarded the prize for "Best Postgraduate Student Paper" for her presentation entitled: "A theoretical alternative intraosseous infusion site in severely hypovolemic children: a cadaveric anatomical investigation".
- **Professor E. Green** was awarded the prize for "Best Staff Paper Presentation" for his presentation entitled: "The functional micromorphology of the rare flea *Macroselidopsylla Albertyni* from elephant shrews".

Cadaver Workshop in Rhinoplasty

The Department of Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery, in conjunction with the Department of Anatomy, hosted the first Cadaver Workshop in Rhinoplasty from 23-24 May this year. It was conducted by Professor W. Gubisch, a world known expert on nose surgery. He presented videos, slides and live demonstrations on cadavers. The procedures were afterwards performed on the cadavers by the delegates under his supervision. The feedback from the 30 attendees, who came from all corners of our country as well as

abroad (Germany), was very positive and we are planning to have more, similar workshops in the future.

Our freezing facility (-25°C) can accommodate up to 40 cadavers. Now the only problem is to source sufficient number of cadavers.

*Mr Henry Human, Mrs Gerda Venter
and Mrs Lané Prigge*

University of Pretoria
Department of Anatomy and Physiology,
Faculty of Veterinary Science

Undergraduate teaching

We have almost finished our year successfully, with what was a very challenging class of 194 students. The students started off very poorly and with the use of CBT testing, the interest in wet specimens was almost zero. In an effort to reverse the situation we swapped out time with other subjects and brought back the hit and run method of testing on wet specimens. Each test takes almost 5 hours to run, with the class divided into three separate groups. Despite this form of testing requiring far more time to compile and mark, it had the desired effect of once more having students studying off their dissected specimens. So we learned that technology, in its current form of CBT, has a negative effect on student learning. Next year is anticipated with some excitement as we will be using a mini block system for the second years. For the first time at our Faculty the anatomy course will be run in blocks, with a test at the end of each block. This will focus the lecturer's time more intently, but with the result of more focussed time off in between the blocks. It is hoped that the new system will alleviate bunking of classes and allow students to study one subject without other pressures on them.

Departmental happenings, achievements, visits and visitors

This year the Department bade farewell to Ms. Erna Van Wilpe, manager of the Electron Microscopy Unit. We will miss her but she now works for the unit on Main Campus, still at UP. Dr Lizette du Plessis is the new manager of the Electron Microscopy Unit from October. Two of Herman Groenewald's students were confirmed with PhD's this year, Dr Modesta Makungu and Dr Wencke Wagner, congratulations to them both. In September Dr Ellenè Kleyn joined the Department as a full-time lecturer in anatomy. She came from a background of 2½ years in small animal practice. She has a special interest in avian species and has already begun research into the eye of the ostrich and emu. We wish her all the best in her upcoming career. John Soley was once again one of the top 10 researchers in the Faculty of Veterinary Science. Dr Christine Steyn received two separate awards for her work on the scale pattern of Temminck's pangolin. Her poster, presented by Martina, won the S.V. Naidoo prize at ASSA in Parys and her presentation at The Faculty of Veterinary Science, Faculty Day, received second place. Congratulations with her excellent start to her MSc. Martina visited the Structure and Motion Lab at the Royal Veterinary College, London, for six weeks in October and November 2015. This visit was aimed at gaining exposure and insight into animal locomotion and as part of this she also attended the undergraduate course in comparative animal locomotion. Professor Peter Chenoweth, Dean of the School of Veterinary Medicine at James Cook University in Queensland, Australia, visited the department at the invitation of Lizette du Plessis and John Soley. Professor Chenoweth is an authority in the field of veterinary reproduction and is the author of a number of veterinary textbooks. His interest in the ultrastructure of sperm abnormalities

also led to fruitful discussion with interested members of the department.



Professor Chenoweth (left) and Professor Soley (right) pictured in front of a bronze bust of the first dean of the Faculty, Sir Arnold Theiler

Local conferences

John Soley and Martina Crole attended the 43rd Annual ASSA Congress in Parys, and presented the work of Christine Steyn on the scale pattern of Temminck's pangolin. John and Martina will also be attending and presenting at the 53rd Annual Microscopy Society of Southern Africa (MSSA) Conference to be held at St. George's Hotel, Pretoria, 29 Nov to 4 Dec. Martina will present work from her PhD on the horn present in the beak of the ostrich.

International conferences

Christine and Martina attended the 1st International Conference on Pangolin Conservation, Trade and Rehabilitation which was hosted by the African Pangolin Working Group, Mabula Lodge, South Africa, from 12-15 October 2015. Christine delivered an oral presentation titled: "The radiological anatomy and scale pattern of the thoracic limb of *Smutsia temminckii*", a talk which was very well-received amongst the diverse audience.

Dr Martina Crole

News in the Department

Professor M Steyn retired from the University of Pretoria in May 2015, and joined the University of the Witwatersrand as the Head of the School of Anatomical Sciences.

Graduations

Congratulations to the following staff members and students who graduated from the University of Pretoria in 2015:

- **BSc (Hons):** Ms N Langenhoven (with distinction), Ms B Jansen (with distinction), Ms C du Toit (with distinction), Ms L Loubser, Ms M Mabuza, Ms J Buskes, Ms T Vorster, Ms C August, Ms T Hayes-Hill, Ms LM Magnoumba, Ms H Yami and Mr C Richards
- **MSc (Anatomy):** Ms C van der Schoor (with distinction), Ms C Venter (with distinction), Ms L Liebenberg (with distinction), Ms GC Kruger (with distinction), Ms R Ebersson (with distinction), Ms S Arbi (with distinction), Ms N Jooste, Ms MK Bodiba and Dr MY Gamielien
- **PhD (Anatomy):** Dr Anna Oettlé, Dr Nanette Briers and Dr Elaine Swanepoel

ASSA conference 2015

21 staff members and students from the Department of Anatomy, University of Pretoria attended the 43rd annual ASSA conference hosted by the University of Limpopo. Our staff and students performed exceptionally well.

International conferences attended

- Professor MC Bosman and Dr A-N van Schoor attended the 32nd Annual Meeting of the American Association of Clinical Anatomists held at the Green

Valley Ranch Resort & Casino, Las Vegas from 9 to 13 June 2015.

- Professor M Steyn and Dr N Briers attended the 16th Meeting of the International Association for Craniofacial Identification at the Tokyo Medical and Dental University, Japan from 1 to 4 August 2015.
- Dr HM Oberholzer attended the Multinational Congress on Microscopy in Eger, Hungary from 23 to 28 August 2015.

Workshops presented

Application of Advanced Statistical Methods for Improving the Biological Profile in Age and Ancestry Estimations in South Africa

The Forensic Anthropology Research Centre hosted this workshop from 27 to 31 July 2015. It was presented by Dr Jesper Boldsen from ADBOU, Denmark, Dr Michael W. Kenyhercz, University of Tennessee, Dr George Milner, The Pennsylvania State University, Dr Kyra E. Stull, Idaho State University and Dr Stephen D. Ousley, from Mercyhurst University.

The course addressed:

- Advanced statistical principles in anthropology
- Development of the biological profile within the context of human variation in South Africa
- Statistical advances in non-metric assessments of ancestry and sex
- Metric estimation of sex and ancestry of South Africans using FORDISC 3
- KidStats: statistical programme for the estimation of age and sex among long bones of South African children
- Recent advances in ADBOU and novel indicators for estimating age at death

- Future directions in age estimation, especially for adult and subadult skeletal remains

Cochlear Implant and Advanced Temporal Bone Dissection Course

The Department of Anatomy, UP presented the 4th Cochlear Implant and Advanced Temporal Bone Dissection Course for Ear, Nose and Throat specialists from 28 to 30 August 2015. It is currently the only cochlea implant specific course in South Africa and aimed at the ENT with a special interest in Otology. The wide range of topics covered in lectures and demonstrations included embryology, anatomy and radiology of the temporal bone, surgical access to the middle ear via posterior tympanotomy as well as extended approaches to the meso, pro and hypotympanum. Specific training on multiple implantable hearing solutions was also provided with 'dummy' electrodes and bone anchored abutments available for practice. The course was organised and presented by Professor Marius Bosman, Dr Louis Hofmeyer and Dr Kurt Schlemmer, ENT surgeons. International presenters included Professor Gerard O'Donoghue, co-founder of the NIHR Nottingham Hearing BRU, Professor Shakeel R Saeed from the University College London and Dr Rolien Free from Groningen University, the Netherlands. The course was very well attended and received by the delegates.



The dissection hall was transformed by Storz, one of the main sponsors



The presenters and delegates of the Cochlear Implant and Advanced Temporal Bone Dissection Course

3D Imaging in a South African context – an AESOP workshop

The workshop, hosted by the University of Pretoria was held from the 12th of October till the 15th of October and was opened by Professor Stephanie Burton, Vice-Principal: Research and Postgraduate Studies of the University of Pretoria in the Sanlam auditorium on Hatfield campus. The welcoming of several important role players followed, including Mr Daan du Toit from the Department of Research and Technology as well as Dr Romilla Maharaj, Executive Director, National Research Foundation of South Africa (NRF), H.E. Elisabeth Barbier, the French Ambassador and Ms. Anne Grillo, the Director of Cultural and Academic and Research Cooperation at the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The presentations were chaired and attended by high rated NRF scientists: e.g. Professor Maryna Steyn, Professor Bruce Rubidge, Professor Francis Thackeray and Professor Nigel Bennet.

The programme was packed with activities and included presentations devoted to palaeoanthropology, anthropology, forensic anthropology and forensic pathology on day 1. The field trip to Necsa (The South African Nuclear Energy Corporation) organised by Frikkie de Beer and to Sterkfontein caves, as part of the Cradle of humankind, guided by Professor Thackeray on Day 2, was an

unforgettable experience. Day 3 was held at the Oral and Dental hospital, University of Pretoria and focused on the clinical applications of 3D imaging. Following on these presentations, attendees had the option to choose between 3D modelling for educational purposes or Geometric morphometrics by Dr Clément Zanolli, Palaeoanthropologist and PhD candidates: Jean Dumoncel, Computer scientist and Jason Hemingway, Anatomist. The final day, Day 4 drew a full audience with topics on archaeology, anthropology and heritage, geography, mechanical engineering and bioengineering.

The conference was made possible by generous funding from the AESOP (<http://www.aesop-em.eu/>) and AESOP plus (<http://www.aesopplus.eu/>) mobility grants, supported by the European Union. The world renowned Palaeoanthropologist, Professor José Braga from Toulouse, France is the main coordinator of these mobility grants and also presented and chaired some sessions of the workshop. This conference is an excellent example of multidisciplinary networking (Anatomy, Anthropology, Forensic and Physical Anthropology, Forensic pathology, Palaeoanthropology, Bioengineering, Mechanical engineering, Geography, Archaeology, Medicine, Dentistry, Radiology, Radiography, Genetics, Computer sciences and others) bringing scientist together in South Africa (UP, SMHSU, UCT, CUT, UKZN, UWC, UV, UFH, Wits and many others) and internationally (Africa: Zimbabwe and Nigeria; Europe: UK, Italy, France and Sweden) as well as from the community: South African Police Service and Industry: e.g. Necsa, Pelindaba. Research is so stimulated and enhanced for a better understanding of the world and its people.

There were 149 registered attendees. Many requests for late registration had to be declined because of logistic and venue limitations. Due to the overwhelming positive

responses from attendees and presenters, the organisers (Professor José Braga, Dr AC Oettlé, Mrs Louise Euthimiou, Mr Frikkie de Beer and Professor Francis Thackeray) wish to expand on the duration of the workshop and the size of the venues for future events.

Mrs Claire Venter

University of Johannesburg
Department of Human Anatomy and
Physiology

The three new laboratories of the Department of Human Anatomy and Physiology, which was the result of a consolidation of all Health Science students on the Doornfontein campus, has been finalised. Students have been enjoying the new osteology lab which boasts with brand new Audio-visual equipment such as a document camera and LED monitors which facilitate the use of tablet-based multimedia applications. The new computer lab has also been optimally utilised this year for use of histological software, physiology self-learning applications and access to various anatomy data bases to assist with the three-dimensional concepts of the anatomy and physiology field.

The department co-hosted, with the University of the Witwatersrand, a successful 2015 PSSA (Physiology Society of Southern Africa) annual conference, held from 6-9 September and coordinated the teaching workshop of the conference. We also presented a public lecture in September, with Professor Dee Silverthorn, from the University of Texas, Austin, author of the popular textbook, Human Physiology.

We are expanding our Human Anatomy and Physiology “family” as Trevor Nyakudya added a baby girl to the family tree, Bianca Thomas is expecting her first, Nkosi Xhakaza

his third, and Saramarie Eagleton became the proud grandmother of a baby girl.

Some news from the Anatomy section of the Department of Human Anatomy and Physiology

Shahed Nalla attended the workshop on Stats in Forensic/Archaeological Identification of skeletons at UP as well as The Times Higher Education (THE) African Summit hosted at UJ at the end of July. He was reappointed as Vice-Dean (Faculty of Health Sciences at UJ) for another three year term. He also represented UJ at the Southern African Regional Universities Association (SARUA): Vice-Chancellors Leadership Dialogue on *Global Trends in Technology in Higher Education* in Somerset West, 8 and 9 September 2015, South Africa. Shahed graduated on 25 August 2015 with an Executive Leadership Development Certificate and co-published a manuscript in *eLife* on the new hominid fossil *Homo naledi* with the Rising Star Team led by Professor Lee Berger of the Evolutionary Studies Institute and Center of Excellence in Palaeosciences at Wits.

Pilani Nkomozepi presented and attended the XXIV International Symposium on Morphological Sciences conference in Turkey in September and is progressing well with his PhD studies. Nkosi Xhakaza will be registering for his PhD in 2016 and is excited about his project that has already progressed well into proposal stages. Both Nkosi and Pilani are continuing with the possible collaborative project with Appalachian State University through our visiting Professor, Professor Nathan Mowa.

Erna Bruwer is near-completion of the Diploma in Health Sciences education, presented by the University of the Witwatersrand and continues as moderator and serves as Senate member for Ann Latsky Nursing school. Elaine Swanepoel has eventually (☺) graduated with her PhD and

presented at ASSA 2015 and the HAPEC (Human Anatomy and Physiology for Emergency Medical Care) round table conference in July.

Dr Elaine Swanepoel

University of Kwazulu-Natal School of Laboratory Medicine and Medical Sciences

Clinical Anatomy at UKZN conducted a “REACH” campaign from 17-21 August 2015, with their undergraduate and post-graduate students, as well as staff members. This campaign emphasised the five principles which the University of KwaZulu-Natal would like staff and students to uphold. These principles include Respect, Excellence, Accountability, Client-Orientation and Honesty. Our campaign encouraged students and staff members to embody the five different REACH colours and share their experiences and knowledge on these principles. This campaign was prompted by the University of KwaZulu-Natal’s public relations department and appeared on the University’s social media pages.



Student scholarships

Ms Nerissa Naidoo, a PhD candidate at the University of KwaZulu-Natal, is spending six

months conducting part of her doctoral research at Ghent University in Belgium after receiving the prestigious INSPIRE Mobility Scholarship funded by the Erasmus Mundus Programme. Her study is entitled "An Anatomical Investigation of the Subacromial Complex: Intrinsic and Extrinsic Parameters of the South African and Belgian Populations." Ms. Naidoo left for Ghent University in September 2015 and is associated with the Department of Orthopaedic Surgery and Traumatology, where she is conducting anatomical and biomechanical shoulder work. She is currently involved in 3D-CT imaging reconstruction. She successfully applied to upgrade her masters to PhD level after the initial study which was supervised by Clinical Anatomy Professor K.S. Satyapal and Ms L. Lazarus underwent meritorious assessment and demonstrated the potential for expansion.

In addition, College of Health Science scholarships were awarded to three Masters students including Ms S. Govender, Ms A. Kalicharan and Ms B. Roelofse and a PhD student, Ms. S. Ishwarkumar to assist with their respective research.

Local conference attendance

Post-graduate students and staff members of Clinical Anatomy presented their research at the College of Health Science Research Symposium held from the 10-11 September 2015. A total of 13 papers were presented; of these Ms Pamela Pillay and Ms Nosipho Shange was awarded prizes for their presentations to the value of R15 000 each. Students and staff also attended the 3D Imaging in a South African context – an AESOP workshop hosted by the University of Pretoria. It was an amazing learning experience, especially in light of the fact that UKZN is moving towards 3D anatomical research.



UKZN attendees at the AESOP workshop

At UKZN we try to get our students excited, inspired and involved in anatomical research and they have risen to the challenge with approximately 21 presentations at ASSA 2015, of which 8 were published post conference. Ms Brenda De Gama was appointed as a Council member at the 43rd annual ASSA 2015 conference. Since the retirement of Professor Haffejee, Ms Pamela Pillay will also be joining Professor Greg Lebona as co-chair for CAIG (Clinical Anatomy Interest Group). Presently, our medical science students are encouraged to join ASSA as student members and we are proud that they are taking up this initiative. UKZN anatomy staff and students are really excited and looking forward to ASSA 2016 conference and preparations are underway!

Achievements

We are also honoured to report that Dr Azu O. Okpara, received a rating by the National Research Foundation (NRF) of South Africa for 2015-2020. He is also an Associate Fellow of the Harvard School of Medicine, Boston, having successfully completed the one year Global Clinical Scholar Research Training (GCSRT) scholar program in June 2015. He is also a recipient of the South African NRF Thutuka grant in 2015.

Ms Pamela Soobramoney

Postgraduate Research Day 2015:

Annually the Departments of Human Biology and Clinical Laboratory Sciences at the University of Cape Town, hold a combined postgraduate research day. Three ASSA members, including Mss Marlie Greef, Francesca du Toit and Petra Schwab, within the Department of Human Biology were invited to present their research. Marlie Greef presented her Honour's work entitled "The descriptive anatomy of the human intraparietal sulcus in a Southern African cadaver sample". Francesca du Toit presented her research done for her Master's dissertation "Circulus arteriosus cerebri: anatomical variations and their correlation to cerebral aneurysms". Petra Schwab presented a poster: "A case report of death due to lightning in Cape Town, South Africa" and gave an oral presentation entitled "A four-year retrospective study of fire related fatalities at the Salt River Forensic Pathology Laboratory, Cape Town, South Africa (2011-2014)". All presenters received positive feedback and comments from the judges and audience.

UCT Biomedical Sciences Honours Open Day 2015:

On 12 August, the UCT Faculty of Health Sciences hosted its annual Open Day in the Wolfson Pavilion at the UCT Medical Campus. Among the fourteen programmes available, the Applied Anatomy/ Biological Anthropology exhibit was again one of the most popular stands at the event (thanks at least in small part to the distribution of anatomy-themed candies). Run by the current postgraduate students, the exhibit contained a display of interesting pathological specimens and anatomical models made by students in previous years. Also on display were award-winning posters from members of

the department covering topics from comparative taphonomy studies, dental modifications, and the use of ultrasound imaging for observing fascial changes after surgery. The day was a great success, providing record numbers of applicants for next year's programme.



The Applied Anatomy/ Biological Anthropology exhibit at the UCT Biomedical Sciences Honours Open Day 2015

45th Annual Meeting of the Society for Neuroscience:

More than 29 000 neuroscientists descended on the scenic city of Chicago to attend the 45th Annual Society for Neuroscience (SfN) meeting held from 17-21 October 2015. SfN is undoubtedly the best place for neuroscientists to share scientific findings, to learn about new hot topics and technologies, making lasting connections, networking, and to explore career possibilities and professional development opportunities. With more than 15 000 abstracts sharing novel findings in the form of special lectures, given by world-renowned scientists, in addition to symposia, mini-symposiums and poster presentations. Professor Russell, Dr Dimatelis and Ms Swart (MSc student) from the Department of Human Biology presented their research findings and unquestionably received valuable feedback from experts in the field. The meeting is invaluable to neuroscientists and others working in the field of neuroscience.

The Silent Tutor:

Recently Professor Graham Louw, from the Department of Human Biology at the

University of Cape Town was contacted by Eye Witness News to film a documentary on cadaver donations and dissections. The documentary included footage of third year MBChB students dissecting a cadaver, an interview with students as well as with Graham. The documentary can be viewed using the link:

<http://ewn.co.za/2015/10/12/The-silent-tutor--How-your-body-can-help-science>

Dr Jacqueline Dimatelis, Ms Francesca du Toit, Ms Petra Maass

News from abroad

Wojciech Pawlina, Professor and Chair of Anatomy at the Mayo Clinic and a Life Member of the ASSA, has been selected as a Distinguished Educator at Mayo Clinic.

Professor Stephen W. Carmichael

International Federation of Associations of Anatomists (IFAA)

The Executive Committee of the IFAA met in Istanbul in September 2015 at the same time as the ISMS Congress. The meeting of the Executive was fruitful and I would like to share with you some of the items for which international Associations of Anatomy, including ASSA, will be contacted in the very near future:

- The Executive met following a two day meeting of the Federative International Programme on Terminology (FIPAT) (Chairman: Professor John Fraher). Much progress has been made on updating the anatomical and embryological terminologies and the

- Chairman of FIPAT will be in contact with local associations within the next few months to ask for assistance with perusal of these documents. I understand that ASSA is currently setting up a terminology committee of its own to review the documentation from FIPAT once it is sent.
- FIPAE (the Federative International Programme on Anatomical Education (Chairman: Professor W. Pawlina) is in the process of developing core curricula in anatomy. These too, will be sent to anatomical societies for perusal and comment. Thus ASSA may wish to set up an education committee in the near future to receive and comment on these documents, if the ASSA Council so wishes.
- A referendum on the voting of the very large Associations will be called regarding the casting of their two votes. The President and the Honorary Secretary of ASSA will be contacted regarding this in October.
- In addition, a second referendum will be called on the admittance of associations to membership. At the current time, it takes five years for a society to be admitted as a member of the IFAA and the IFAA feels this needs to be shortened. Once again, the President and the Honorary Secretary of ASSA will be contacted regarding this vote.
- The IFAA Executive is very keen to involve “young” anatomists in the IFAA. A webpage will shortly be opened on the IFAA Website (www.ifaa.org) on which we wish to advertise different activities/courses for young anatomist.
- In addition, it is my personal wish and that of the Executive to gather as many Anatomical Associations as possible into the IFAA. I am thus once again, appealing to any individual who has contact with anatomists in Africa or

elsewhere in the world to send me their email addresses if their society is not currently part of the IFAA. A list of member societies of the IFAA can be found on the IFAA Website (see above).

- The next Congress of the IFAA is scheduled to be held in Istanbul in 2019.

I hope you will find this update useful.

With best wishes,

Professor Beverley Kramer

We need your help

We have two things that we would greatly appreciate your help with...

1. Do you remember

Do you recognise the people in the photo below? Please let us know.

Where was the picture taken?

When was the picture taken?

What was the occasion?

ANY information will be much appreciated!



2. ASSA emblem



If you know anything about the ASSA emblem, we would like to know about it.

Who designed it?

What does the image mean?

What is the significance of each part?

What does the Latin inscription mean?

Again, we would appreciate *any* information you have!

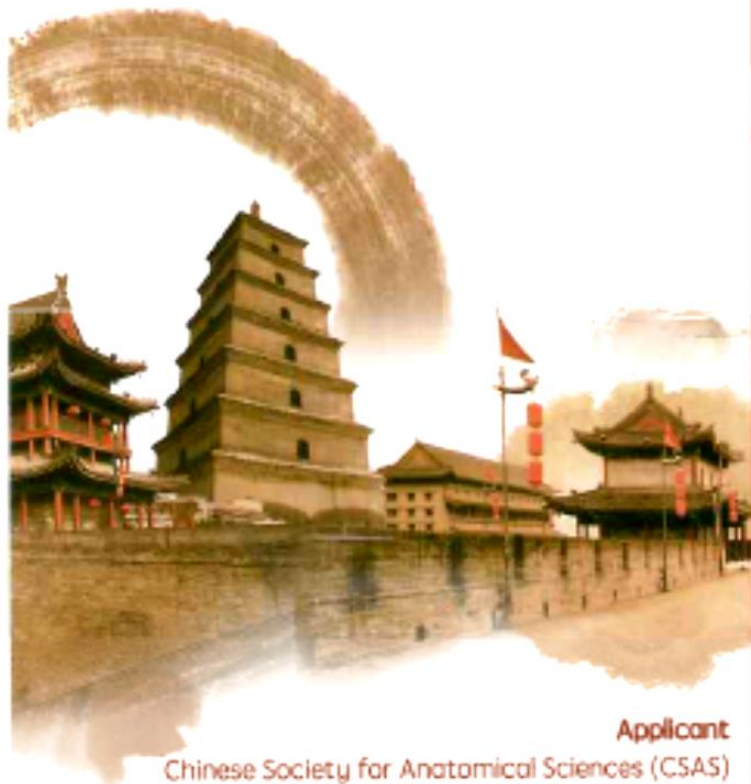
**The XXV International
Symposium on
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Morphology:

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Obituary on a great friend and colleague: Professor W Vorster

It is with great sadness that we bid farewell to our beloved friend and colleague after his courageous struggle with cancer for almost two years! Willie has passed away in the early morning hours of Sunday 27th September 2015. His funeral was on Friday the 2nd of October here in Windhoek. May your broken and battered body live on in eternal peace and happiness my friend.

Willie, as most of us had known him, was Head of the Anatomy Department in the School of Medicine at the University of Namibia since July 2010. He was therefore one of the founding members of this relatively young School of Medicine and the first Professor in Anatomy. Under his leadership he established not only the most popular department in the school according to student reviews (over several years), but also the best managed and staffed department. This honour that was highlighted by the Health Professions Council of Namibia, on three internal audits, that were conducted over the past years. In their recommendations they used the Anatomy example as a template for all the other departments to follow! During 2012 Willie and his small staff then, hosted a very successful and memorable ASSA conference in Windhoek! Also a first for this side of the border!

Willie started his career as a Physical Education teacher in 1970 in the then Eastern Cape. Two passion of his life that never left him, was his ability to work with young people and his passion for sport, in particular rugby! He made a career move to become Senior Technical officer in Anatomy and Histology at the University of Stellenbosch in 1980. This enabled him to continue with his studies and to start an academic career. He obtained his Master's degree at the end of that year and then moved on to complete his PhD in 1989. Since then, Willie has devoted most of his career to the advancement of knowledge in

Anatomy and Embryology. He did his post-doctoral year in Tübingen, Germany and worked at various tertiary institutions throughout South Africa, before moving to Namibia. He later became Senior Lecturer in Anatomy at Pretoria University in 1990 and eventually decided to move back to Stellenbosch in 2001. That is where he stayed until he decided to relocate to Windhoek 2010.

Willie was always a very active member of ASSA and served on the Council and as the Honorary Treasurer. He served on several International bodies of which the ISVM (International Society of Vertebrate Morphology) is but one. He presented at various national and international conferences and was an active researcher. A fact that is proven, with him obtaining more than ten research grants and more than fifty peer reviewed articles and abstracts on his publication list! His collaboration with Professor Hoogland and the Vrije University in Amsterdam and Leiden University has seen almost fifty elective student projects to completion. No average feat in anyone's book. One of the highlights of his career was when he attended the 2015 Annual Conference of ASSA earlier this year in Parys. Here he was the recipient of the Distinguished Member Award! Already terminally ill by then, he was completely taken by surprise when they bestowed this honour on him. More proof of how humble he was throughout his life!

We all came to know and love Willie for his great sense of humour, quick mind and the ability to seek the lighter side of life! He very seldom (if ever?) lost his temper and was always extremely polite; even to his biggest enemy! He never complained, and to that I bare witness! After his extended battle with cancer and when it was already evident that there was no return, he remained positive

and inquisitive about how things are progressing at work and politely apologising for not being able to be there!

Our thoughts and prayers go out to Albi (his wife of 45 years!) and family members. But, Willie, know for a fact that you will never be forgotten and will live on in the memories of everyone that had the privilege of crossing paths with you! Rest in peace my friend!

Professor Jan Smit



Professor Willie Vorster receiving the Distinguished Member Award from Professor Maryna Steyn