



NEWSLETTER OF THE ANATOMICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTHERN AFRICA 2017

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At the end of yet another year we reflect on our successes and achievements. This edition of the ASSA newsletter highlights some of the activities and achievements that have occurred around the country during this year.

I would like to thank each and every one for their kind contribution to the newsletter, especially the "ASSA liaison officers" from each of the institutions for ensuring that all the news from their respective institution are included in ASSA 2017 newsletter.

Wishing you all a happy holiday!

Best wishes,

Desiré Brits

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF ASSA

Dear colleagues,

It is with immense gratitude that we near the end of 2017, in a year that I think was for most of us academically relatively calm. My wish for us all is that we are able to complete a successful academic year, and have a good rest over the holidays.

This year we had an exceptional conference at Club Mykonos, in a truly great setting. I think we were all very pleased with the number of delegates who attended, illustrating that our field is relevant and growing. This growth is also evidenced by the many posts that we see advertised through our mailing list and website. We are looking forward to meet everyone at the conference organized by UJ in 2018. The recent change in the NRF funding model has however hit many of us hard, and I expect that it will have an impact on the number of delegates at our future conferences.

On a positive note – you may remember that ASSA sent a letter to the HPCSA where we emphasised the importance of learning anatomy on a real human body and where possible cadaver dissection. We received a very positive reply back from the HPCSA, stating that where possible, they recommend that dissections be included in the training. The

Board also supports all forms of training in Anatomy in Medical and Dental Schools. I believe that we have at least managed to raise awareness of the importance of Anatomy in our teaching programmes.

I would like to extend my gratitude to the members of the ASSA Council for their hard work and dedication. Their support, commitment and leadership in our society are invaluable.

I wish you all a peaceful festive season, and all the best for 2018.

Prof M Steyn



45th ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF THE ANATOMICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTHERN AFRICA (ASSA 2017)



ASSA 2017, Club Mykonos, Langebaan, West Coast, Cape Town State

The 45th Annual Conference of the Anatomical Society of Southern Africa (ASSA) was hosted by the Department of Human Biology of the University of Cape Town (UCT) at Club Mykonos, Langebaan, West Coast, Cape Town in April, 2017.

The theme of the conference this year was Art in Anatomy, and the logo that we designed was a collage of Leonardo Da Vinci's *Vitruvian Man*, some examples of Da Vinci's writing and drawings, and a coastal scene from Cape Town. Several workshops were run before the official opening of the conference. Some were held at UCT and others out at Club Mykonos. Each was hosted by the relevant Interest Group and these were as follows: Biological and Forensic Anthropology (stakeholders in finding human skeletal remains), Cell Biology, Technical workshop (alternative chemical formula for embalming, restoration of bottled specimens, 3D printing and virtual reality in Anatomy teaching) and Clinical Anatomy (embryological development of the cardiovascular system, anomalies of the heart, radiographic diagnosis of congenital anomalies of the heart based on pathophysiology).



Technical workshop – a demonstration of virtual reality in Anatomy teaching

The evening before the official opening of the conference, we were treated to a most informative review of the changing roles of women in Science in South Africa and the influences of socio-political events during the previous century on research and advancements in Science. This excellent address was delivered by Professor John Soley, one of our Honoured Members.

The three day conference commenced with a keynote address by Dr Carlos Machado. We trust that our time spent together will be repeated in the future, as we all benefitted so much from his input and we all felt so uplifted.



Dr Carlos Machado in action

The remainder of the scientific and poster sessions were clustered into themes and we accommodated one of the fullest academic programmes in recent times at a meeting of ASSA. Delegates to this conference came from tertiary institutions across South Africa, and we were delighted to host guests from other African countries, the UK, and Turkey. The programme comprised a total of 77 oral presentations and 38 posters, with an overall cohort of approximately 130 delegates.

The delegates who were awarded prizes for their presentations are as follows:

- Antoinette Kotze prize (award for best first time oral presentation): Vaughan Perry (University of the Witwatersrand)
- Bob Symington prize (award for best young oral presentation): Tobias Houlton (University of the Witwatersrand)
- Willie Vorster prize (award for best overall poster presentation by a first time presenter): Chandra Longden-Thurgood (University of Cape Town)
- SV Naidoo prize (award for best overall poster presentation): Okobi Ekpo (University of the Western Cape)
- Hanno Boon prize (award for best medical education oral presentation): Carol Hartmann (University of the Witwatersrand)
- Technical prize (award for best technical presentation): Gerda Venter (UP) & Coen Nienaber (University of Pretoria)

A very important annual event is the announcement of the award for the Honoured Member, and this year it went to Prof Mohamed Rashid (MR) Haffajee.



Honoured member of ASSA: Professor MR Haffajee

Other activities that were so enjoyed by the delegates included a workshop on adult colouring-in, in which Carlos Machado played an impromptu guiding role, a treasure hunt around Club Mykonos that ended on the beach, an evening of karaoke that was open to the general public as well, and the conference dinner which was held at a local restaurant with a marine theme for the evening.

This 45th Annual Conference was a great success, based on feedback received by the Organising Committee. This was in no small part due to the wonderful location and the sense of freedom and relaxation that are coupled with spending time at the coast. I thank the members of the Organising Committee for their assistance in arranging this meeting, and to all the delegates who attended ASSA 2017.



Professor Maryna Steyn awards the prize to Vaughan Perry



Professor Maryna Steyn awards the prize to Tobias Houlton



Professor Maryna Steyn awards the prize to Chandra Longden-Thurgood



Professor Maryna Steyn awards the prize to Okobi Ekpo



Professor Maryna Steyn awards the prize to Carol Hartmann



Professor Maryna Steyn awards the prize to Gerda Venter and Coen Nienaber

Prof G Louw

Chair: Organising Committee, ASSA 2017

46th ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF THE ANATOMICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTHERN AFRICA (ASSA 2018)



The University of Johannesburg invites you to the
Anatomical Society of Southern Africa 46th Annual Conference
22-25 April 2018 | Kloofzicht Lodge | Muldersdrift | Gauteng

Celebrating the past
Reimagining the future



Join us at the serene Kloofzicht Lodge, situated in the Cradle of Human Kind, Muldersdrift, Gauteng for the Annual Conference of the Anatomical Society of Southern Africa 2018. Just an hour's drive from both Pretoria and Johannesburg and a mere 15 min's drive from Lanseria Airport, we hope that you come and spend some quality time with colleagues and friends in Anatomy.

We invite presenters from fields of both human- and animal-based anatomy such as Macroscopic Anatomy, Clinical and applied Anatomy, Biological and Forensic Anthropology, Physical Anthropology, Cell and Molecular Biology, Histology, Developmental biology, Osteology, Comparative Anatomy as well as Anatomical and Medical Education.

The programme will start on Sunday morning, 22 April 2018 with a variety of pre-conference workshops arranged by the Society's interest groups, followed by the main conference which will conclude on Wednesday afternoon, 25 April 2018.

As we look back on a magnificent 50 years of our Society, we will be celebrating all the marvellous minds and founding fathers who have paved the way for Anatomists in Southern Africa. For those who have helped lay that path, come and share those precious and fun-filled memories; and for those who will continue paving this Society's next 50 years, come and share your vision and create new memories so that we can reimagine the future of ASSA and Anatomy together.

We look forward to hosting you all!

Dr E Swanepoel

*Chair: Organizing Committee, ASSA
2018*

Workshops

Various Orthopedic and Otorhinolaryngology workshops were hosted during 2016 and 2017. A workshop that deserves special mention is the temporal bone workshop of the Department of Otorhinolaryngology that was held during November 2016 and included contributions from local and international experts.



Photos of the Otorhinolaryngology workshop (UFS)

On the 26th of September 2017, the Department hosted a short workshop, *The Anatomy of Bite*

Marks as Forensic Indicators, for third year students from the UFS BSc Forensic Science program, run by Drs Sonja Brink and Petra Maass. Using anatomical models and skeletal specimens, students were taught about the anatomical structures involved in mastication. This was followed by a series of demonstrations of how variation in dentition and bite force can be used in the forensic interpretation of bite marks, as well as how it may hamper such interpretations. The session was greatly enjoyed by the students – some of which have not been exposed to working with human remains before – and staff alike. The comparisons in bite force between males and females provided a particular source of laughter throughout the afternoon. We hope to expand this workshop in future years, continuing our successful collaboration with our forensics colleagues!



Photos taken during the Anatomy of Bite Marks as Forensic Indicators Workshop (Contributor Dr P Maass)

International visitors

Dr Carlos Machado, a medical illustrator for the companies that hold the rights of editing Dr

Netter's work, visited the department of Basic Medical Sciences on the 20th April 2017. Dr Machado gave presentations to second year medical students in the department and thereafter signed text books and anatomy illustrations for the students.



Photos taken during the visit of Dr Machado

Conferences attended and staff development news

Dr Ntsidi Moopela, Dr Petra Maass, Dr Carina Vorster and Ms Tshago Ramphaleng, attended the 6th Annual Conference of The African Society of Forensic Medicine held in Bloemfontein, 6-10 March 2017. The conference was themed “*Conflict and violence in Africa: the role of forensic medicine and science towards better public health*”. Ms

Ramphaleng delivered an oral presentation at the conference. The title of the oral presentation was “*The effect of tooth loss on accurately estimating sex from the non-alveolar mandibular morphology using geometric morphometrics*”.

Dr M Ferreira was invited to give a presentation at a Clinical Investigator Certification course that was held from 09 – 13 October 2017 in Cape Town.

General

Two candidates, Me K Mopolokeng and Mr WJ Henning received their MedSc degrees at the June 2017 graduation ceremony.

The following full-length articles were published during 2016/7:

A scoring framework for assessing anatomy competence in undergraduate preclinical students. D Raubenheimer, JE Raubenheimer, S Van Zyl *Anatomical Sciences Education*. 2016. 9(4):319 - 329.

Clinical anatomy of the anterior cruciate ligament and pre-operative prediction of ligament length. R van Zyl (MSc Anatomy), A-N van Schoor (PhD Anatomy), PJ du Toit (PhD Physiology), EM Louw (PhD Statistics) SA *Orthopaedic Journal*. 2016. Vol 15 No 4

Dr S van Zyl

Stellenbosch University
Division of Anatomy and Histology,
Department of Biomedical Sciences

Advance Course in Forensic Anthropology in Milan, Italy

Mandi Alblas attended a two day Advance Course in Forensic Anthropology in Milan, Italy, on 14 and 15 September 2017. The course was hosted by The Forensic Anthropology Society of Europe (FASE). The focus of the course was on the identification of unknown human remains

across three continents namely, Africa, Europe and North America, resulting from large-scale migration of displaced persons. The course consisted of a combination of lectures and practical exercises that included the collection of post-mortem data to match with ante mortem information. Several speakers discussed the lack of legislation at national and international level relating to the definition of the different countries' competence and obligations during the rescuing process, as well as during the process of identification after a mass disaster. The course was followed by a one-day symposium where scholars from around the world presented on means to identify unknown remains by using several methods to estimate sex, age and ancestry. Mandi presented on ancestry estimation in the South African Coloured population group using nasal morphology.

lives of young girls by using education. Thope contacted SAWISE to participate in a "BIOBLITZ" session where female researchers in science and engineering interact on a personal level with young girls regarding our work, academic journey and our research. Groups of young girls from the ages of 9-13 were rotated between different groups of science and engineering volunteers from SAWISE to interact in a 15-20 minute session with each topic. The idea was to introduce and popularize the concept of the vast array of sciences available to girls for study at a young and formative age, before they make school subject choices. The experience was insightful and the girls were very attentive and participatory. All the (female) volunteers were excited to see the interest in the sciences by these young ladies and enjoyed sharing their experiences.



Prof Maryna Steyn and Dr Desiré Brits from Wits University pictured with Mandi Alblas in Milan



Prof Sanet Kotzé talking to one of the groups of young girls regarding biology and medical sciences during the outreach

South African Women in Science and Engineering (SAWISE) public engagement: The Thope Foundation School Holiday Programme 5th October 2017, Khayelitsha

The Thope Foundation is a non-profit organisation working to improve the educational landscape for young girls in South Africa and its vision is to drive change in transforming the

9th International Symposium of Clinical and Applied Anatomy (ISCAA 2017)

Prof Sanet Kotzé was very privileged to attend and participate in the 2017 ISCAA conference from 9-12 September 2017 in the beautiful surroundings of Innsbruck in the heart of the Tyrol, Austria. The conference was hosted by the Anatomy, Histology and Embryology Department of the Medical University of Innsbruck and the venue was the historic and beautiful Theological Institute of the University

of Innsbruck, a building dating back more than 300 years.

Prof Kotzé was the only delegate from South Africa while most were from central Europe, Britain, Australia and some from Canada and the USA. A striking feature throughout the conference was the extent of the involvement of clinicians and specialist clinicians in research on a variety of clinical anatomical aspects. Many clinicians highlighted how important anatomy was to them in their imaging and surgical clinical approaches and presented detailed studies on their regions of interest. This was illustrated by an opening statement of one of the plenary lectures: “Anatomy without clinic is dead, clinic without anatomy is deadly” (Werner Platzer).

Another plenary talk dealt with the sensitive issue of how images of cadaver material is used and displayed in textbooks but also in research papers. While this is a very sensitive and controversial issue in central Europe, this talk illustrated that we should all learn lessons on how cadaver material is imaged in a professional and respectful manner in medical publications.

2nd International Conference on Tissue Engineering and Regenerative Medicine

Dr Venant Tchokonte-Nana took part to the 2nd International Conference on Tissue Engineering and Regenerative Medicine held at Vanderbijlpark – South Africa on July 26-30, 2017. His presentation was titled “MSC/PDEC interaction: a requirement for a functional beta cell in an injured adult pancreas”. The Conference also saw the birth and launch of the Tissue Engineering and Regenerative Medicine International Society, African Chapter (TERMIS-Africa). The other TERMIS Chapters are: TERMIS-Europe, TERMIS-Asia and TERMIS-USA; this launch is a step forward for more effective research on tissue engineering and regenerative Medicine in Africa.



Dr V Tchokonte-Nana with Prof Antonios G. Mikos, a Founding Fellow of TERMIS

ASSA 2017 Langebaan

Our division was well represented at the ASSA 2017 Conference in Langebaan with two members of staff and a bumper crop of 9 postgraduate students.



ASSA 2017 attendees



Left: Prof Sanet Kotzé in the lecture hall just after her talk

Top right: Prof Eric Brenner in one of the anatomy dissection halls at the Medical University of Innsbruck. Even though the building dates from the 50's, there are extractor units and lighting for each individual dissection table keeping the formalin fumes to less than the acceptable values required by Austrian law.

Bottom right: The Kaiser Leopold Hall where most of the conference was conducted

Stellenbosch Regionals of Eskom Expo for Young Scientists



The annual regional finals for young scientists of the Stellenbosch area was held at Bloemhof High School in Stellenbosch this year, on the 24th and 25th of August. The Eskom Expo aims to stimulate an interest in science in school learners in order to stimulate careers in science. Mandi Alblas represented the division of Anatomy and Histology as a judge and acted as coordinator of a category. There was a total of 20 categories with 230 projects by learners from 23 schools of the region. Learners seemed to find the categories on innovation, technology and environmental management highly interesting, as most projects centred on these fields. Each judge interviewed four learners and judged their projects which were mostly of a high standard. After judging and before the prize giving ceremony took place, a scientific demonstration was followed by an inspirational talk by Hein Wagner, a blind motivational speaker.

Prof S Kotzé

**University of Pretoria
Department of Anatomy, Faculty of Health
Sciences**

The UP Department of Anatomy has had a successful year and we are proud to share some of our highlights and happenings.

News in the Department

- This year the Department bade farewell to Mrs Santie Swarts, Professor Anna Oettlé, Mr Riaze Asvat, Dr Nadia Navsa and Mr

Coen Nienaber. We wish them well in their future endeavours.

- We are pleased to welcome Ms Nkhensani Mogale and Ms Gerda Venter to our team. Both have been appointed as full-time lecturers in the Clinical Anatomy section.
- Dr Natalie Keough has been promoted to Senior Lecturer.
- We wish to acknowledge the hard work and dedication of our postgraduate students, without whom the endeavour to research excellence would not be possible. At present there are 17 BSc (Hons), 22 MSc, 15 PhD and 3 Postdoctoral students within the Department. A hearty congratulations also goes out to all of the postgraduate students who graduated in 2017. This includes Helena Taute who received her PhD for her work on synthetic peptides.

Conferences and workshops

- Several staff members and their students attended the 45th Annual ASSA Conference and presented a number of oral papers and poster presentations. Marelize Schoeman was awarded the Hanno Boon Award for best postgraduate study, and Coen Nienaber and Gerda Venter received the ASSA Technical Award for their study titled “An investigation into possible causes of poor preservation of embalmed human cadaver brains used for student training: Preliminary results”.
- Professor Ericka L’Abbé attended the 69th Annual American Academy of Forensic Sciences Meeting in New Orleans. She presented research on “A cranial-postcranial approach to metric ancestry estimation among modern South Africans”.
- Professor Albert van Schoor and Dr Natalie Keough attended the 3rd Hanno Boon Dissection Masterclass hosted by St George’s Medical School in Grenada. The aim of the Masterclass was to dissect specimens for inclusion into the new addition of the McMinn and Abraham’s

Clinical Atlas of Human Anatomy, of which Professor van Schoor is one of the authors. The Masterclass was a great success with many interesting characters and long hours of hard dissection.

- The first Clinical Anatomy Maceration Workshop was held from 14 to 18 August 2017. The aim of this practical workshop and mini-seminar was to enhance current knowledge and appreciation for the work that goes into expanding a bone collection and to teach the skills required to successfully macerate embalmed human bodies. The course was developed and presented by Prof Albert van Schoor, Dr Jolandie Myburgh and Miss Gabi Kruger with detailed hands-on practicals held by Dr Myburgh and Mr Eric Marakalla, who has been a macerator for over 25 years. The week was spent teaching the students the tricks of the trade and ensuring that they have the necessary knowledge to be able to safely macerate embalmed human remains. Mr Marakalla also held a detailed demonstration on the embalming process for the students. This workshop was a trial run for future workshops that will be held with a focus on maceration techniques, both clinical and forensic, and the inner workings of the embalming area in Anatomy departments.
- The Forensic Anthropology Research Centre (FARC) hosted a five-day workshop on the interpretation of Skeletal Trauma, presented by Professor Steven Symes. Prof Symes is the world expert in the interpretation of bone trauma with a particular specialty in criminal dismemberment and mutilation. He began his career in the Medical Examiner's Office (MEO) in Memphis, Tennessee, where he worked for more than 15 years as a forensic anthropologist. In 2003, he began teaching and conducting research in the Department of Applied Forensic Sciences at Mercyhurst University in Erie, Pennsylvania. In 2015,



Participants of the Clinical Anatomy Maceration Workshop learning about the process that goes into the maceration of human remains.

Prof Symes retired as a Professor Emeritus from Mercyhurst University and currently conducts case analysis, workshops and seminars, and research at the MEO of the Mississippi Crime Laboratory in Jackson, Mississippi. The purpose of this course was to bring together anthropologists, pathologists and law enforcement with the intent of educating and promoting the application of bone trauma analysis and methodology in medico-legal investigations in South Africa. Prof Symes gave lectures on the five categories of bone trauma during the week, while both Proffs Symes and Ericka L'Abbé provided hands-on experience for the participants with the use of cases from both the USA and South Africa. The workshop was attended by 22 individuals from all over South Africa. The large variety of backgrounds offered interesting anecdotes and provided the workshop with an exciting atmosphere of learning and collaboration. The highlights of the course were the hands-on assessment of bone trauma and how biomechanical methods of bone failure can be applied to case work throughout South Africa.



The delegates and presenters of the Interpretation of Bone Trauma Workshop.



The delegates attending the workshop were able to obtain hands-on experience with a number of forensic case specimens showcasing different examples of skeletal trauma.

Ms L Liebenberg

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

Undergraduate teaching

The undergraduate programmes have been successfully run in 2017 and the veterinary students pulled out all the stops to achieve a year mark of 65% for exam exemption in anatomy, physiology and histology. 2017 saw our biggest intake of students; 220 for veterinary science and 55 for veterinary nursing. Although

numbers will temporarily decrease back to normal, we are promised greater numbers in the future.

Departmental happenings, achievements, visits and visitors

Sadly, the Department of Anatomy and Physiology has said farewell to 7 of its 12 lecturers. The HOD, Prof Andre Ganswindt, was successful in his appointment as Head of the MRI (Mammal Research Institute) at Hatfield campus. Dr Peace Mabeta moved to health sciences, Dr Marius Hornsveld and Prof Herman Groenewald are retiring, Dr Ellene Kleyn left academia and there is most likely a slim chance of Prof Roy Meintjes and Prof John Soley having their contracts renewed for 2018. Currently the department is under stewardship of another department and there seems little promise of having any of our posts filled. Dr Martina Crole was awarded the Exceptional Young Academic Achiever award from the University of Pretoria and delivered a guest lecture on her research to the University of Veterinary Medicine in Vienna, Austria. Dr Christine Steyn was voted by the students and received the award of as the best “New Lecturer of the Year” for their appreciation of her lecturing skills and dedication. Dr Lizette du Plessis and Ms Antoinette Kotze from the EM unit visited the USA to attend a course in electron microscopy. Prof Mary-Catherine Madekurozwa is well-under way with her thriving postgraduate students in her Avian Reproduction Research Group, for which she received a prestigious grant.

Local conferences

John Soley and Martina Crole attended the 45th Annual ASSA Congress in Club Mykonos. John, Martina and Antoinette will also be attending and presenting at the 55th Annual Microscopy Society of Southern Africa (MSSA) Conference to be held at Warmbaths.

International conferences

Martina Crole presented two posters at the 2nd International Bird Senses Symposium, hosted by the London Zoological Society in the London Zoo from the 14-15th September.

Dr M Crole

University of Namibia Department of Anatomy

The planning for an Anatomy Resource Centre started some two and half years ago with the possibility of obtaining the whole Nottingham museum collection of Anatomy and Pathology specimens and relocate them to Namibia. After a disappointing withdrawal of the offer from Nottingham, Bristol University came to our rescue and offered us the Langford collection instead. Negotiations immediately started, and in August 2015, my technician and I went across to Bristol to pack the Langford collections to get them ready for shipment to Namibia. This was only possible with the help of the Council members of the IAS, Chris Birkett of the HTA in the UK, Steve Gaze (Director of technical services at Bristol) and John Ben (retired colleague from Nottingham) and the support of the Bristol Anatomy team. Not only did they assisted us with the packing but they accommodated us in their Department for almost a week! This was really a massive TEAM- effort and just proofs the value of cooperation between Departments, even if they are continents apart!

In the meantime, back on “home” soil, I had to work through the UNAM international office with the Ministries of Health and Social services, Education, Higher Education and Finance (Customs and Excise) to get the necessary clearance documentation ready for the container with specimens that was on its way. In all honesty, this was no mean task to try and explain to Government officials what this was all about and why we wanted to do this in the first

place! The handling of human remains always raises eyebrows and suspicion in Africa with its colonial history! I truly believe this was a first for the African continent!

The container with the specimens eventually arrived in Walvisbay harbour on the 21st October 2015 and was delivered at the School of Medicine on Monday morning the 2nd November 2015. That was really one of those “WOW- moments” which happens only occasionally! Everyone in the Department was really excited and eager to start! However, the real hard work was lying ahead to remove, clean and refill all the jars with specimens and get them ready for display in the Resource Centre. In the meantime they all had to be relabelled and catalogued for storage before they could be moved to the Resource Centre and put on display. My technical team in the Department was busy with this (between their normal duties) for almost a year. It is still a work in progress! Eventually on the 4th November 2016 we were able to launch the opening of the Anatomy Resource Centre at the School of Medicine. After two and a half years of negotiations and agreements, N\$ 560000.00 (Namibian Dollars) of sponsorship money obtained from local businesses, lots of hard work and good will (not to forget all the grey hair and nail biting!) the **1167** specimens of the Langford collection in Bristol, now have a new lease on life and will serve for generations to come as a resource of learning material here in Namibia! It is an ongoing project, and far from complete!

The opening event was very well attended by the just over a hundred invited guests and the Pro-Vice Chancellor for Research, Innovation and Development at UNAM, did the honours of unveiling the name of the Resource Centre. After the speeches and unveiling of the plaque, a tour of the Resource Centre for the guests unleashed lots of questions and varied interest in the specimens which were on display. This is really the beginning of an exciting development in the history of the School of Medicine here in Namibia!



Guests walking through the Resource Centre

Refreshments were served and interesting discussions followed!

My plans for the Resources Centre is that it will primarily serve as a Teaching- and Learning resource for our students in Medical Sciences, but it must also be open to the public and more specifically to visiting school groups, to stimulate interest in Medical Sciences. We also strive to establish links with public- and private sector to use the Centre for training purposes. We have already made contact with the curator of the Pathology museum at Cape Town University, and she is very keen to cooperate

with us in exchanges of “rare cases” for limited periods. Future prospects of cooperation are limitless!



Social discussions after the formalities was finished

With the unpacking of the specimens I suddenly realized that I recognised some of the specimens. These specimens were “saved” from destruction some eight years ago through the IAS “pot reclamation scheme”. The specimens came from the old Pathology museum at the Royal Victoria Hospital site in Belfast, which was closed. The specimens were temporarily homed in the Department of Anatomy at Queens University in Belfast, were I was working at that time. These specimens were relocated to Bristol for safekeeping and storage under the auspices of the IAS. I was involved with the relocation and packing of those specimens to go to Bristol, and I was now again lucky enough to be involved in giving them a new home in Namibia at our Resource Centre! What a privilege to live in such a “small” world?



University of the Witwatersrand School of Anatomical Sciences

This year held great things for the School of Anatomical Sciences...

Prof Beverley Kramer was made a Fellow of the American Association of Anatomists (AAA) and Prof Amadi O. Ihunwo was elected to serve as the Secretary-General/Chief Executive Officer of the Society of Neuroscientists of Africa (SONA). Prof Maryna Steyn, HoS Anatomical Sciences was also re-elected for another term as President of the Anatomical Society of Southern Africa (ASSA).

Other news

We are very fortunate to celebrate the addition of three new staff members to our ranks:

Mrs. Albertina Iikasha (local graduate from Namibia) joined our Histology team in September 2016; Miss. Anneli du Plessis (graduate from Stellenbosch) joined our technical team at the beginning of the year and Prof O. Azu from KZN joined us in March 2017. Three of us (Prof Azu; Prof Smit and Miss. Du Plessis) attended the ASSA meeting at Club Mykonos in April and delivered several talks and had a lovely time catching up with old colleagues.

Prof Azu was part of the organizing committee for the 12th International Conference on Plastination, which was held in Durban in July. He also attended the 50th Annual Meeting of the Society of the Study of Reproduction in Washington DC in July.

Dr Wessels attended the BSHM Conference in Edinburgh in September and delivered a talk on Matthew Drennan.

Mrs Iikasha is visiting Trieste in Italy during October attending a week long course on Fluorescence Microscopy.

Prof Smit was honoured with a Meritorious Award for best teacher in the Preclinical modules and a Certificate of Appreciation from the SRC for the best Department in the School of Medicine.

Greeting from a very hot (and dry!) Namibia.

Prof J H T Smit

General

Launch of the Brain Matters Seminar Series and the Wits Cortex Club

The Brain Matters Seminar Series is a follow up to the Why the Brain Matters Colloquium that was held at the Johannesburg Institute of Advanced Studies (JIAS) from September to December 2016. This series is a joint initiative between JIAS, the DST-NRF Centre of Excellence in Human Development (CoE) at the University of the Witwatersrand, the Southern African Neuroscience Society (SANS) and the Wits Cortex Club and is being organised by two of the colloquium participants, Dr Sahba Besharati and Dr Tanya Calvey from the University of the Witwatersrand. This joint initiative will be a multidisciplinary seminar series that explores the past, present and future of neuroscience in southern Africa.

The launch of the Brain Matters Series took place at the School of Public Health, University of the Witwatersrand on Thursday, 23 March 2017. It was well attended by neuropsychologists, neuroscientists, psychiatrists, philosophers, radiologists, biomedical engineers, epidemiologists, neurosurgeons, neurologists as well as staff and students from The University of the Witwatersrand, the University of Johannesburg and the University of Pretoria. The speakers were Professor Linda Richter (Director CoE

Human Development), Professor Peter Vale (Director JIAS), Professor Willem Hendrik Gispen (Utrecht University; Director of Why the Brain Matters Colloquium), Dr Tanya Calvey (Wits School of Anatomical Sciences; Secretary of the Southern African Neuroscience Society) and Dr Sahba Besharati (Post-doctoral fellow CoE Human Development). Prof Linda Richter announced that the CoE Human Development will sponsor a 3 year bursary for a PhD student as an outcome of the Brain Matters Series.

The event also marked the launch of the Wits Cortex Club. The Wits Cortex Club is a joint initiative with Oxford University and the University of Cape Town and has been registered with the Medical Students' Council in order to expose medical and health science students to local and international neuroscience research.

**Book Chapter Publication –
Commemorations and Memorials in
Anatomy: Tribute to the Donors and the
Indigent Givers**

Professor Beverley Kramer together with co-author Professor Graham Louw of the University of Cape Town, have published a book chapter entitled “Commemorations and



From right to left: Prof Peter Vale, Prof Linda Richter, Prof Martin Veller, Prof Willem Gispen, Dr Tanya Calvey and Dr Sahba Besharati.

Memorials in Anatomy: Tribute to the Donors and the Indigent Givers”. This chapter, published in the book “Commemorations and Memorials: Exploring the Human Face of

Anatomy”, explores the emotional impact, along with coping mechanisms, of human dissection on Health Sciences students. The book interrogates aspects which have been introduced in the early phase of admittance into health sciences studies such as dedication ceremonies, which were put in place to assist students with accepting the cadaver as an educational gift and also to aid students with the acceptance of death. In this chapter, Kramer and Louw describe the dedication ceremonies that were introduced at Wits and UCT and some personal memories of early dissection.

Kramer B, Louw GJ (2017) Commemorations and Memorials in Anatomy: Tribute to the Donors and the Indigent Givers. In: Štrkalj G, Pather N (eds), Commemorations and Memorials: Exploring the Human Face of Anatomy. pages 133-145. DOI: 10.1142/9789813143159_0009

Awards

Thabiso Tshabalala – The most influential lecturer of the year 2016 (MBBCH I and II)

At the Medical Student Council (MSC) awards ceremony, Mr. Tshabalala was recognised as “The most influential lecturer of the year 2016 (MBBCH I and II)”. Mr. Tshabalala received this award for the second year running. This esteemed title goes to a lecturer nominated and voted for by the medical students. To be nominated for this prestigious award one must have shown evidence of excellence in facilitating student learning and must also show commitment that goes beyond classroom teaching.



Award winner: Mr Thabiso Tshabalala

Teaching award for Mrs Aleksandra Saša Jovanović

The Phillip V Tobias and Convocation Distinguished Teacher's Award for the Pre-Clinical Teaching Category – 2016 was presented to Mrs Jovanović. Mrs Jovanović is currently a histology and reproductive immunology lecturer in the School of Anatomical Sciences, Faculty of Health Sciences. She values the personal interactions with her students, who find her easily approachable and often come to her office during lunch time for consultations. Her office is her sanctuary, filled with students' thank you cards, letters and pictures which she values dearly.



Award winner: Mrs Aleksandra Saša Jovanović

Distinguished Alumnus Award

On 24 March, 2017, Professor Amadi O. Ihunwo, was conferred with an award of Excellence. He received the "Distinguished Alumnus" award from the University of Port Harcourt, Nigeria, during the Chancellor's Dinner/Award Night. This dinner/award night formed part of the events marking the University's 31st convocation ceremony. Professor Ihunwo received his Bachelor of Medical Sciences in Anatomy (Hons) degree from this University in 1984. Part of the citation read "An alumnus who is an exceptional scholar and scientist, a man who is forever driven by a passion for giving back to human kind enduring solace in the research investigations he undertakes. A sojourner alumnus."



Award winner: Professor Amadi O. Ihunwo

Sceales-Antrobus Prize for Breast Cancer Research

Dr Tanya Augustine was again the recipient of the Sceales-Antrobus Prize for Breast Cancer Research at the 2017 meeting of the Surgical Research Society of Southern Africa (SRS). She will thus represent the SRS at the upcoming 13th Annual Academic Surgical Congress (ASC), the premier North America meeting for preclinical and clinical surgical sciences, in Florida USA in January 2018. Dr Augustine will deliver an oral presentation entitled "To Activate or Not to Activate? The Controversy Surrounding Tamoxifen Treatment and Thrombosis".

Conference attendance

IBRO-UCT African Advanced School on Neuroimaging

Dr Tanya Calvey was the organizer for the IBRO-UCT African Advanced School on Neuroimaging held 1-15 December 2016 at the University of Cape Town. Faculty were Dr Bahador Bahrami (University College London), Prof Ernesta Meintjes (University of Cape Town), Dr Fleur Howells (University of Cape Town), Dr David Pitcher (University of York), Prof Charles Newton (Oxford), Prof Said Boujraf (University of Fez), Prof Jo Wilmshurst (University of Cape Town), Dr Frances Robertson (University of Cape Town) and Dr Tanya Calvey. The School was the first of its kind in Africa where 18 African and 6 South African students were exposed to the latest

functional MRI, functional near-infrared spectroscopy, transcranial magnetic stimulation (TMS) and electroencephalogram (EEG) research and practical training. The School was funded by the National Research Foundation, the International Brain Research Organisation and Axiology Labs SA.

45th Annual Conference of the Anatomical Society of Southern Africa (ASSA)

The 45th Annual Conference of the Anatomical Society of Southern Africa (ASSA) was hosted by the Department of Human Biology, Faculty of Health Sciences at Club Mykonos, Langebaan (Western Cape), 23 – 26 April 2017. This conference covered a variety of research topics including clinical anatomy, histology & embryology, neuroscience, biological anthropology and medical education to name but a few. ASSA is the major regional association for anatomists and an important forum for presenting new research and technological developments. The conference was attended by numerous members of staff and postgraduate students from the School of Anatomical Sciences who presented oral papers and posters.

Dr Tobias Houlton won the Bob Symington Award for the best young oral presenter for his paper on “Typological archives: incarcerated flesh with untold histories and modern dilemmas”. Mr. Vaughan Perry won the Antoinette Kotze Award for the best first time oral presenter for “The effects of gestational alcohol exposure on the postnatal development of the tibia in 3 week old Sprague Dawley Rats”. The Hanno Boon Award for the best medical education oral presentation was presented to Dr Carol Hartmann for her presentation entitled “Comparison of computer and laboratory based assessment methods for anatomy practical examinations”.



Staff and students from the School of Anatomical Sciences at the Gala dinner of the 45th annual ASSA conference

34th Annual Meeting of the American Association of Clinical Anatomists

Dr Robert Ndou attended the 34th Annual Meeting of the American Association of Clinical Anatomists held in Minneapolis, Minnesota, USA, July 17 – 21. Dr Ndou, presented a paper entitled “Variations of the Celiac Trunk in a South African Cadaveric Sample”. Dr Ndou’s abstract was also chosen among those to be published in *Clinical Anatomy*.

The International Symposium of Morphological Sciences

Professor Emeritus Beverley Kramer and Dr Robert Ndou, from the School of Anatomical Sciences recently participated in the meeting of the International Symposium of Morphological Sciences (ISMS) in Xi’an, China, 26-30 July. Professor Kramer presented a paper entitled “Variations in bone density in the human mandible during the early stages of dental development” by Erin Hutchinson, Mauro Farella, Jacobus Hoffmann and Beverley Kramer. In addition, as a member of the Executive Committee of the ISMS and as President of the International Federation of Associations of Anatomists (IFAA) she participated in a Board meeting and also chaired a symposium during the Congress.

Dr Ndou presented a paper entitled “The Effects of Prenatal Alcohol Exposure on Sprague Dawley Rat Femur: A Three-Dimensional Micro

Focus X-Ray Computed Tomography (3D- μ CT) Investigation”.

The 12th International Interim Conference and Workshop on Plastination

The 12th International Interim Conference and Workshop on Plastination (ISP) was hosted by the Discipline of Clinical Anatomy, School of Laboratory Medicine & Medical Sciences, College of Health Science, University of KwaZulu Natal in Durban from the 2nd to the 7th of July. This conference was attended by Mr Khathutshelo (Khathu) Ravhugoni and Mr Jacob Mekwa from the School of Anatomical Sciences. The conference consisted of theoretical presentations as well as practical training sessions regarding various plastination techniques, which included silicon, epoxy and polyester resin (p40) techniques. Techniques mastered during this conference are routinely used in the preparation of cadaveric specimens for teaching purposes, but are becoming increasingly popular in various research disciplines.

Forensic Anthropology Society of Europe Advanced Course and Symposium

The Forensic Anthropology Society of Europe (FASE) hosted their bi-annual Advanced Course and Symposium in Milan during September. The advanced course and symposium, entitled “Anthropology and Migration”, highlighted the protocols and methods used to aid in the identification of deceased migrants and refugees. Age estimation in living individuals was also discussed, particularly around the age of 18 years. This course and symposium was attended by Prof Maryna Steyn and Dr Desiré Brits from the School of Anatomical Sciences. Prof Steyn was invited as one of the keynote speakers and presented a paper entitled “Migrants, bodies and identification in South Africa”. Dr Brits also presented a paper at the symposium on dismemberment cases in South Africa.



Mr Mekwa (top) and Mr Ravhugoni (below) at the plastination conference

University of the Witwatersrand Cross-Faculty Symposium

The Cross-faculty symposium has been held each year at Wits University for the last 8 years and provides great opportunities for postgraduate students to showcase their research through poster and oral presentations. The symposium provides for an intellectual meeting place in which to learn and experience new fields, network amongst one another and receive constructive points for their research. Mr Joshua Davimes represented the Faculty of Health Sciences in the Cross-faculty symposium and presented aspects of the PhD thesis in an oral presentation entitled “Sleep in the Arabian oryx”. He was awarded 3rd place for his oral presentation.



Dr Robin Drennan (left) and Mr Joshua Davimes (right)

Workshops

Workshop on Human Skeletal Identification presented at Uniport, Nigeria

The School of Anatomical Sciences, under the auspices of HVIRU (Human Variation and Identification Research Unit) presented a workshop on *Human Skeletal Identification* at the Abuja Campus of the University of Port Harcourt, Nigeria. The first two days of the workshop (30 May 2017 and 1 June 2017) dealt with basic identification methods to estimate age, sex and stature from skeletons as well as recovery of remains (forensic archaeology). Days three and four (2- 3 Jun 2017) covered assessment of trauma (blunt force, sharp force, gun shot and thermal destruction) and pathology from skeletons.

The workshop was presented by Prof Maryna Steyn and Ms Anja Meyer, and was facilitated by Prof Amadi Ihunwo. It was attended by 23 delegates from various universities in Nigeria. Delegates had the opportunity to do practical hands-on analyses using material provided by the Department of Anatomy of the University of Port Harcourt. Following the workshop, the delegates formed an interest group to take this discipline further and also influence legislation regarding the handling of human remains in Nigeria.

Visiting Scientists – Professor Dennis Slice

The Human Variation and Identification Research Unit (HVIRU), School of Anatomical Sciences, hosted morphometrics expert Professor Dennis Slice (Florida State University

and the University of Vienna) during June 2017. Professor Slice presented a general lecture “The Future of Applied Shape Analysis” and two specialist workshops on the software applications that he has developed for morphometric (Morpheus, GPSA (General Procrustes Surface Analysis)) and forensic anthropology research (forAge and 3D-ID). This was followed by a day of consultation with students and staff. The lecture drew a large crowd of researchers and postgraduates from across the University and guests from the University of Pretoria (UP) and Sefako Makgatho University (SMU).



Delegates attending the two workshops presented by Prof Dennis Slice

2017 Anatomy Dissection School

The 2017 Anatomy Dissection School took place in the School of Anatomical Sciences, Wits University, Medical School, Parktown, Johannesburg from 26 – 30 June. There were 15 participants drawn from different health professions, resident within and outside Gauteng. The anatomy regions dissected on human cadavers by the different professionals included the thorax, lumbar spine, pelvis and perineum and the brain. The Anatomy Dissection School was endorsed by the Anatomical Society of Southern Africa (ASSA) and is a Wits CPD Office recognized programme that attracts 30 CPD points. The “Anatomy Dissection School” will be offered again in 2018. For enquiries contact Professor Amadi O. Ihunwo (Amadi.Ihunwo@wits.ac.za).



Some of the participants and facilitators that took part in the 2017 Anatomy Dissection School.

Postgraduate students

Forensic Anthropology Short Courses – Texas State University

In June 2017 Ms Amy Spies, a postgraduate student in the School of Anatomical Sciences visited the Forensic Anthropology Centre at Texas State University in San Marcos, Texas. She participated in a number of forensic anthropology short courses including Forensic Anthropology Methods and Identifying Human vs Non-Human Bone. She visited the Freeman Ranch body farm to studying decomposition, taphonomy and forensic entomology.

Trauma Analysis in Medico-legal Investigation – University of Pretoria

In September 2017 Ms Amy Spies also attended a short course at the University of Pretoria in trauma analysis in medico-legal investigations. This course was run by Professor Ericka L'Abbé from the University of Pretoria and Professor Steven Symes from the Medical Examiner's Office in Mississippi, USA. It was the first time Ms Spies had taken a course in trauma analysis and she felt that the knowledge that Prof Symes imparted was truly invaluable.

Wits Students assist the NPA with the Gallows Exhumation Project

On the 4th of August, five postgraduate students – Laurette Joubert, Amy Spies, Elsie Nchabeleng, Tamara Lottering and Raesah Loonat – from the School of Anatomical Sciences assisted the National Prosecuting Authority (NPA) with the exhumation of the

remains of five United Democratic Front activists who were hanged in the Pretoria Central Prison between 1986 and 1989. This exhumation forms part of a larger project called the Gallows Exhumation Project which aims to exhume the remains of 83 political prisoners who were hanged and buried in unmarked graves. This project aims to identify and return the remains to the families so that they can give their loved ones a proper burial.

The students are grateful towards the NPA for affording them the opportunity to assist with the exhumations. It was a wonderful learning experience for them and they are truly honoured to have been part of such an amazing project.

Dr D Brits

University of Cape Town Department of Human Biology

The 12th International Interim Conference and Workshop on Plastination

Hosted by University of KwaZulu-Natal

Theme: Plastination and Anatomy Education: Challenges in Sub-Saharan Africa 2 – 7 July 2017.

The University of Cape Town was represented at the 12th International Interim Conference and Workshop on Plastination by Mrs Kerri Keet, Assistant Lecturer in the Division of Clinical Anatomy and Biological Anthropology. The conference was aimed at building plastination in resource limited Africa, so it was introductory and innovative as to how the techniques can be modified in a cost-effective way. A total of fourteen countries were represented, most of whose delegates had never been to South Africa before. These countries included the United States of America, Turkey, China, Spain, Canada, India, Colombia, Mexico, Brazil, Germany and the Netherlands. Nigeria and Namibia represented the African continent while South African universities represented at the conference included ZwaZulu-Natal, Pretoria,

Cape Town, Witwatersrand, Limpopo and Sefako Makgatho. Topics included S10, E12, P40 and P45 techniques, modification of techniques for producing higher quality specimens and the application of plastination in Clinical Anatomy, Archaeology, Veterinary Science and Medical Education. Ethical issues around plastination, a topic that is crucial at a time where plastination is becoming increasingly utilized by institutions across the world, were also discussed.

The conference was interactive, fun and involved informative oral presentations, poster presentations and afternoon workshops in the plastination laboratory at the University of KwaZulu Natal. Delegates were spoiled with luxury dinners at Ushaka Marine World, Roma Revolving Restaurant and a splendid gala dinner on the final evening. Highlights from the conference included tours of the Anatomy departments of the Nelson R Mandela and the Durban University of Technology, and learning plastination techniques in a hands-on manner by international experts in the workshop sessions.



Slicing a frozen chicken on the bandsaw (left) results in 3mm slices (right).

Biological Anthropology

At UCT in biological anthropology Drs Victoria Gibbon and Jacqui Friedling have been busy and actively engaged in several service projects. Through our service provider Forensic Anthropology Cape Town (FACT) we have had several interesting and challenging cases, and provided skeletal recovery for archaeological contexts. As part of our Forensic Anthropology

Masters course we did a mock excavation at Tygerberg Mortuary.

Jacqui led the Black River Parkway Cemetery site – a historical burial site marked for redevelopment just off the M5 highway in Cape Town. A team of archaeologists have done most of the excavations and exhumations. Jacqui is also doing the on-site analyses of all the skeletal material recovered, with approximately 1000 graves exhumed to date. Jacqui offered a module this year where honours students spent three weeks learning to excavate and exhume burials, as well as on site analyses of skeletal remains. Students from many levels within our Division have participated in the skeletal analyses and recovery. Many research projects for students are resulting from this rare opportunity. The excavation and exhumations are nearing their completion now, however, the data will be used in research for some time to come. This was an excellent and rare training opportunity for our students.



2017 Master of Philosophy in Biomedical Forensic Sciences, Forensic Anthropology Course training excavation at Tygerberg Mortuary.

In terms of research we have been active and are playing a significant role in studies related to forensic anthropology, bioarchaeology and forensic genetics. To better understand decomposition and estimate post mortem interval in our unique oceanic and terrestrial environment in the Cape, with the help of several students (Devin Finaughty, Belinda Speed, Chandra Thurgood and Maxmilian

Spies) we are producing enlightening applied data and research; from pure decomposition studies, understanding scattering and scavenging and using molecular methods of identification from degraded samples submerged in the ocean. Another area of research currently being targeted includes bioarchaeological studies on historic material in the Cape, from Black River (Jacqui Friedling & Christie Putter) Polyoak and Green Point (Victoria Gibbon, Natalie Kendrick & Kimberley Wucherpfennig). We are also actively evaluating and examining standards for South African populations with ageing, stature and ancestry estimation (Jacqui Friedling, Liesl Arendse, Elizabeth Potter & Tafadzwa Tahwa). Jacqui and Victoria have been busy applying for the usual research grants but also for equipment and teaching grants to expand the technology we have for our students. Our unit is bustling with new ideas and is set to continue to grow and prosper in 2018.

Jacqui attended the International Conference of Forensic Sciences held in New Orleans in February. Her poster on ancestral differences in South African populations on skulls was well received. Victoria attended the Canadian Association of Physical Anthropology meetings in Edmonton, where she promoted the UCT Human Skeletal Collection and her initial findings using dental matrices to examine population continuity among Iron Age people (Mapungubwe, Isamu Pati and Ingombe Ilede) in southern Africa.

End of Era Dr Christopher Warton: Retirement 2017

At the end of 2017, Dr Chris Warton will be retiring from the Division of Clinical Anatomy and Biological Anthropology at UCT. He studied Medicine at the then University of Rhodesia, and joined the Faculty of Health Sciences at UCT in mid-1980. He has taught anatomy to medical, physiotherapy, occupational therapy, speech-language pathology and audiology undergraduate students; and has supervised

many honours, masters and doctoral students in anatomy and neuroscience; as well as teaching clinical neuroanatomy to graduate psychiatrists. As an expert neuroanatomist, he has consulted on several research projects, including investigations into paediatric HIV, foetal alcohol spectrum disorders, and the effects of prenatal drug exposure.

His current postgraduate students together wrote “Dr Warton is not only a supervisor and a teacher, he is a mentor who teaches about life just as much as he does anatomy. When our studies felt too clinical, he would always offer that anchor that reminds us that it’s ok to be human. He is probably the wisest man we know. New students will miss out on his extravagant classes and anatomical humour. His little stories that go with teaching are irreplaceable and he will surely be remembered by his students and colleagues as the topic of many fond stories whether it be to family, fellow classmates or academics for many years to come.”

Dr Warton’s experience and kind spirit will be missed in the Division, and we wish him all the best in his future endeavours. While a person like Chris will never be retired as he is a life teacher and gifted listener, we hope he will find some extra time to spend with his children and grandchildren.



Dr Warton with wife, Sarah Warton

Miss Petra Maass now Dr Petra Maass obtained her PhD in December 2016 at UCT with her Thesis Titled: *A statistical shape analysis of the neurocranium and long bones* and is currently working at the University of the Free State as a lecturer.



Dr Petra Maass

Miss Kentse Mpolokeng was featured on the SA 2017 Mail & Guardian Top 200. Follow the full story on the link below

<http://200ysa.mg.co.za/2017/kentse-mpolokeng/>

Kentse also graduated her Master's degree Cum Laude, titled: *The prevalence of anatomical variations in the intraorbital part of the ophthalmic artery and its branches in cadavers* from the University of the Free State in June 2017. This achievement also gained her an invitation to join the Golden Key International Honour Society in recognition of academic excellence.



Miss Kentse Mpolokeng

Dr V Gibbon and Ms K Mpolokeng

Sefako Makgatho Health Sciences University
Department of Anatomy

A number of exciting events occurred at the Department of Anatomy, Sefako Makgatho Health Sciences University (SMU) during the past year. SMU celebrated its third birthday and the new Vice Chancellor, Prof Chris de Beer, was inaugurated. The Department celebrated the birth of a baby boy, Aaron, to Mrs. Daniele Kristen and two other staff members are also expecting their second child in March 2018. Various permanent and temporary staff members not only took part in and attended the ASSA conference, but also the conference of the American Association of Physical Anthropologists, International conference of Plastination, conference of the International Association of Craniofacial Identification, the Conference on Imaging with Radiation, Faculty Day, Faculty of Health Sciences, University of

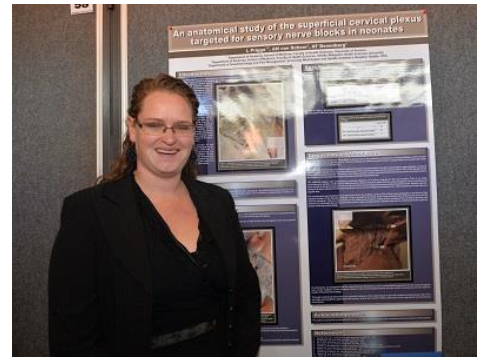
Pretoria and Research day, SMU. Four awards were received at SMU's Research day, namely two first prizes for Mrs. Lané Prigge respectively for a podium presentation and a poster presentation Charlotte Theye was awarded a second prize for her poster presentation and Manon Galland a third prize. Marine Cazenave, PhD student of Prof Oettlé, was funded by the Knowledge Interchange and Collaboration grant of the NRF to attend and present at the conference of the East African Association for Paleoanthropology and Paleontology in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia (30 July to 2 August 2017).

Dr Petro Humphries received the degree, MPhil (health professions education) and also the Best Lecturer in Radiography award in 2016. Miss Suvasha Jagesur started with her PhD studies and is funded by an AESOP grant to visit the Anatomy Department, University College Dublin. To support PhD students in their projects, the Department acquired a computer with the necessary specifications for high resolution image manipulation. Four articles have been published in 2017 and two more have been accepted for publication.

A teaching development grant of R 2 million from the Department of Higher Educational and Technology was awarded to the Department of Anatomy and acquisitions are being made to enhance the three dimensional experience, increasing the bank of wet specimens and models as well as an overhead camera to project projections to large groups. The Department hosted two workshops with clinicians, an Anaesthesiology workshop for nerve blocks and a Urology workshop, for perineal sling procedures.

We said goodbye to Mrs. Gerda Venter and Mrs. Nkhensani Mogale who joined the service of the University of Pretoria. The following new staff members were thus far appointed in 2017 namely Miss Suvasha Jagesur, Mrs. Lané Prigge, Mr. Nkosi Xhakaza and Prof Anna Oettlé. With the retirement of Mr. Henry Human and Prof Greg Lebona at the end of 2017, new posts have been advertised. We wish to thank

Mr. Henry Human and Prof Greg Lebona for their lifelong commitment to this Department.



Lané Prigge



Manon Galland



Charlotte Theye

Prof A Oettlé

**University of Kwazulu-Natal
Clinical Anatomy, School of Laboratory
Medicine and Medical Sciences,
College of Health Sciences**

Graduation

“Journey” is a great word to describe the path that students walk to arrive at their degrees. On 7 April and 7 September 2017, respectively, the University of KwaZulu-Natal held its bi-annual

graduation ceremony for the College of Health Science students at the Sports Complex, Westville Campus in Durban. This year the graduation ceremony was especially poignant as the Department of Clinical Anatomy graduated 7 PhDs (4 of whom are staff members), 4 Masters and 5 Honours students. Life threw all kinds of things at them along the way: challenges and opportunities, doubts and tragedies, millstones and milestones. But despite it all, they made it through. Graduation is a special time of the year as it is a time to reflect, to celebrate, and to look forward to all that the future holds. We wish the graduates all the best in their future endeavours!



September 2017 graduation: C Rennie



April 2017 graduation ceremony (from left to right): A Kalicharan, B Roelofse, K Padyachee, N Naidoo, P Pillay, KS Satyapal, L Lazarus, BZ De Gama, S Govender and S Singh

These are some examples of the doctoral research that was conducted within the Department.

Carmen Olivia Rennie

The development of the paranasal air sinuses in a South African population from childhood to early adulthood: an anatomical, radiological and forensic study

A sound anatomical knowledge of the paranasal air sinuses is important for forensic anthropology, endoscopic sinus and cranial base surgeries. This study highlighted the postnatal growth of the air sinuses utilising CT scans and 3D reconstruction, contributing to Southern African data. A proposed classification of the 3D models of the air sinuses were developed for identification purposes according to age, sex and population groups. Growth trends of the developing air sinuses in relation to the craniofacial skeleton were analysed.

Brenda Zola De Gama

Cultural and religious attitudes of black African citizens on body donation

The study investigated the cultural and religious attitudes of the Black African population in the KwaZulu-Natal Province, in order to document the public's interpretation of their belief systems on sacredness of the dead body and its treatment in anatomy departments. The study revealed low levels of willingness to donate bodies to science. Cultural beliefs on ancestors were unanimously reported as not permitting for body donation with the importance of whole-body burial as an underpinning custom. The findings may guide anatomy departments on future body donation campaigns and their treatment of the dead. The incorporation of belief systems on body donor forms and the respect there-of is proposed and recommended.

Pamela Pillay

The legislative framework for the use of human remains in teaching and research at higher education institutes in South Africa: historical analysis, medico-legal challenges and needs

This unique empirical study explored the legal and ethical framework related to the use of human remains for anatomical teaching and research. An inter-link between procurement of human remains, bioethical principles, and the law was documented. A change in trend in procurement practice may be the outcome of amending legislation and creating public awareness body donor campaigns. The study recommended the establishment of a national anatomy consultative forum, an online database for cadaver records and institutional guidelines for best practice related to use of human remains.

Lelika Lazarus

The praxis and research of human anatomy through auto-ethnography

The use of auto-ethnography and collaborative auto-ethnography as research approaches can be considered dissident, and an 'anatomical turn' in the praxis and research in the domain of anatomical education. This study highlights relevant contributions to the research, praxis (teaching and learning) of human anatomy through views of all significant role players – students, researchers and educators. The conceptual framework which was abstracted from the articles and the thesis in its entirety, offers significant understandings regarding the praxis and research of human anatomy within the context of educational theory.

Nerissa Naidoo

The subacromial complex: a clinico-anatomical investigation of the intrinsic and extrinsic parameters in the South African and Belgian populations

This study was the result of an upgrade process from the initial Masters to the PhD and was submitted in the form of a manuscript thesis. The aim was to provide the clinician, especially the orthopaedic surgeon, with reliable reference parameters indicative of underlying pathology that may not be identified from a morphological observation. This led to the development of the

new three-dimensional delto-fulcral triangle model and the biomechanically improved critical shoulder angle. Since this study also employed 3D CT reconstruction, a part of it was conducted at Ghent University Hospital in Belgium. Eleven papers emanated from this study; 7 are published, 3 are in press and 1 is still under review.

The 12th International Conference on Plastination, Durban, South Africa (Onyemaechi Okpara Azu)

It is my pleasure inform that the 12th International Interim Conference on Plastination was hosted by the Discipline of Clinical Anatomy in the School of Laboratory Medicine & Medical Sciences, College of Health Sciences, University of KwaZulu-Natal, Durban, South Africa in conjunction with the International Society for Plastination (ISP). The theme of the Conference/workshop, 'Plastination and Anatomy Education: Challenges in Sub-Saharan Africa' can be viewed:

www.clanatomy.ukzn.ac.za;

www.plastination2017.co.za

This is the first-ever conference /or workshop on Plastination in an African country and more than 45 delegates from 14 different countries participated in the Conference. There were 17 invited guest lectures by experts covering different aspects of Plastination, 5 oral platform presentations by participants as well as 14 poster presentations by participants.

Professor Rafael Latorre came in ahead of time to assist in trouble-shooting and finalisation of protocols for the workshop sessions following the botched arrival of Professor Carlos Baptista who missed his connection flights due to poor weather conditions. We missed Carlos!

There were seven international facilitators/experts from Russia, China, Spain, USA and South Africa who assisted with the hands-on training in the workshop as well as platform presentations. The distinguished lecture was by Emeritus Professor TE Madiba

as well as key-note speech by Professor Amadi Ihunwo.

Scientific sessions were hosted at the Graduate School of Business and Leadership Auditorium, UKZN Westville Campus whilst the hands-on workshop took place at the Plastination Laboratory, Clinical Anatomy, Westville Campus, UKZN.

Daily schedules were arranged with plenary sessions in the morning followed by workshop/laboratory sessions in the afternoon. Posters were available for viewing before and after the lunch breaks. The conference provided a wonderful opportunity for participants to exchange ideas about plastination, and also learn the technique by hands-on practice in the workshop from expert scientists from all over the world.

The event managers offered a full social program, beginning with a Welcome Reception on Monday night which was held at the UShaka Marine World, sponsored by South African Tourism and Durban Convention Bureau. Tuesday night, the social program took the delegates to Sun Coast Casino and Entertainment World, where they enjoyed the evening on their own recourse. Wednesday night, they experienced one of Durban's oldest revolving restaurants, The Roma Restaurant, with view across Durban were seen and enjoyed. Thursday night, the Gala Dinner was held at the COMSA Lounge, UKZN Westville Campus and hosting of ISP President and some facilitators by the CHS Dean of Research, Prof Moses Chimbari. There was also tour of the Nelson R Mandela School of Medicine & DUT. Capacity building and strengthening in the African continent was greatly supported with many postgraduate/staff members who applied for funding sponsored courtesy of the South African National Research Foundation Development Grant to Dr OO Azu (Grant ID 107815). Sponsorships was also received from Biodur, Germany, JMH, Netcare Hospital, South African Tourism Board and Durban

Tourism Board, UKZN-UTLO, LMMS-CHS and UKZN. Thank you all for the support.

As part of the continuous medical education, the following CPD points were awarded for the scientific talks/workshop: MDB003/51/21/04/2017, maximum 25 CEUs in level 1 (attendance) and paper/poster presentations: MDB003/52/21/04/2017, maximum 2 CEUs in level 1 for poster/paper presentations.

It is with deep sense of humility that I express profound gratitude to the National and International Organising Committee members for the confidence, trust and support given me to prosecute this onerous task! I am indebted to you all!



Delegates at the conference

Dr L Lazarus

**Walter Sisulu University
Human Biology Department,
Division of Morphological Sciences**

Walter Sisulu University 2017 Open Day

The University open day was held on 16th August 2017, and was an opportunity for Faculties including the Health Sciences Faculty to introduced and marketed all programmes offered at the Mthatha Delivery site to 2017 matriculates.



Mr Sipelele Buswana. Lab Attendant in Gross Anatomy Laboratory.



Dr Namugowa, Dr Gondwe, Ms Shauli, Mr Buswana and Ms Gqaza. Poster Presentation from Department of Human Biology.

WSU Researchers Writing Retreat Workshop ICC East London

The WSU Researchers Writing Retreat Workshop is one of new initiatives introduced by the Research Directorate in an attempt to increase publications within the University.



Dr Davie Kamadyaapa and Dr Mavuto Gondwe (Faculty Research Coordinator) and the rest of the team of researchers at ICC East London, on writing retreat.



The Vice Chancellor (Professor Rob Midgely) and the Campus Rector (Professor Jabezweni) in WSU Blazers. Deliberating on Teaching and Learning poster presentations on the research day.

University Research Day 2017

The arrival of the new Vice Chancellor has come with a new approach and motivation towards Research where the university researchers through the Research Directorate office show case their research work from all faculties including the numbers of postgraduates produced per faculty per academic year.

There are three Divisions in the Department of Human Biology namely Physiology, Morphological Sciences and Medical Biochemistry. The department consists of five research niche areas; cardiovascular, molecular biology, medicinal plants and toxicology, nutrition, and medical education.

Professor Oyedeji, the award winner- Excellence in Research for 2016-2017 academic year is the founder of Nervine Tea and arthritis Reliver Tea. This is a new innovation where WSU will be producing the unique tea.



Professor Oyedeji, the award winner- Excellence in Research for 2016-2017 academic year.

Ms M Shauli

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

IFAA Executive meets in Cordoba, Argentina in September 2017

The IFAA Executive held its biennial meeting in Cordoba, Argentina. This coincided with the IInd International Congress of Clinical Anatomists and the Vth Congress of the Argentine Association of Anatomists.



Executive hard at work. Present at the meeting were Professors Bev Kramer (President), Richard Drake, Wojciech Pawlina, Susanna Biasutto, Phil Blythe, Changman Zhou (representing Yun-Quig Li), Helen Nicholson and Ceri Davies. Bernard Moxham and Anreas Winkelmann joined the meeting on Skype.

Some of the matters discussed at the meeting were:

- Mechanisms of communication with Member Associations including the IFAA Website
- New applications for Membership of the IFAA
- Recent survey on Plexus, the newsletter of the IFAA
- Strategic plans of the IFAA Programmes and Committees
- A new survey of emergent anatomists

- Appointment of the Nominating Committee for the nomination of portfolio holders of the Executive Committee which will take place at the next meeting of the IFAA General Assembly in 2019

The IFAA welcomes two new Associations to its fold

At its recent meeting in Argentina, the IFAA approved applications from the Uruguayan Society of Anatomy and the Ethiopian Society of Anatomy to membership of the IFAA. These memberships will be ratified at the General Assembly of the IFAA in 2019.



See in the photo is Professor Laura Borgno (in sunglasses), President of the Uruguayan Society with members of the society and Professor Bev Kramer, President of the IFAA. The photograph was taken in Cordoba, Argentine.

Prof B Kramer

President: IFAA

OBITUARY – PROF H DE VILLIERS

A tribute to Professor Hertha de Villiers – a woman before her time



The death of Professor Hertha de Villiers on May 31st 2017 heralded the end of an era for South African anatomy, physical anthropology and forensic science.

Hertha de Villiers (born Graf; 1924) was an inspirational teacher and researcher in two of the University of the Witwatersrand's Anatomy Departments. She was the premier authority in anthropology and forensic science in South Africa. In addition, she was an internationally renowned anthropologist, whose deep interest in living people and interdisciplinary research resulted in the production of a statistical and genetics-based analysis of morphology, which had never before been accomplished. As Ronald Singer (1986) stated: "Hertha de Villiers stands out as one of the pioneers of objectivity, precision and due scientific process".

After completing her schooling at Loreto College, Cape Town, Hertha first came into contact with the study of anatomy at the University of Cape Town during her undergraduate BSc degree (1945) which she achieved in the 1st Class. In 1949 she became a Research Assistant in the Bilharzia Research Unit of the CSIR at the South African Institute for Medical Research.

Following her appointment by Professor Raymond A. Dart as a technical assistant in the Department of Anatomy at the University of the

Witwatersrand Medical School in 1951, a long and happy period ensued. Hertha revered Raymond Dart and was dissuaded by him from undertaking a degree in Medicine.

As a technician in the Department of Anatomy, she was involved in the making and painting of facial casts (the first on an expedition to Lake Chrissie where a small group of Bushman [San] lived). She also worked extensively on the skeletal collections in the Wits Department of Anatomy, which were initiated by Dart and subsequently carried his name.

In 1954 Hertha published three articles on the facial features and aspects of the skull in the South African "Negro, Bushman, Hottentot and Eurafrican". These articles were accepted for a BSc Honours equivalent (Witwatersrand, 1955) and her appointment as a lecturer in 1956 ensued. Hertha's MSc followed in quick succession (Witwatersrand, 1957). Hertha was then awarded a PhD in 1963 (Witwatersrand) for a thesis entitled: A biometrical and morphological study of the skull of the South African Bantu-speaking Negro. The thesis was described by Dart as a "monumental task". The meticulous study of the morphology of over 745 crania and 648 mandibles which resulted from this thesis, was published as a book by the Witwatersrand University Press in 1968. The book was entitled "The Skull of the South

African Negro". It presented to anthropologists a seminal piece of work, which was not only highly cited and used at that time, but is still used today by scientists working in physical/forensic anthropology and on the morphology of the peoples of southern Africa. Early in her career, Hertha had become involved in the study of southern African population groups through the many field excursions in which she participated, amongst these: the Nuffield-University of the Witwatersrand Expedition to the Kalahari and Okavango Swamp (Bushman/San) (1958) a Griqua Survey in 1971 and a study of Chinese Schoolchildren (1970-174). In addition she worked on a number of archaeological sites, one of which was Border Cave (Ingwavuma). Some of these sites included human remains. The latter kindled her interest in medicolegal work and introduced her to the field of forensic science. Today Professor Hertha de Villiers is widely regarded as the mother of South African Forensic Science.

In 1972, Hertha was appointed as Associate Professor in the Department of Anatomy. She subsequently (1974) left the Department of Anatomy at the Medical School and transferred to the Department of General Anatomy in the Wits Faculty of Dentistry where she remained until her early retirement in 1984.

As an academic, Hertha was exceptional. She lectured medical, dental, allied health sciences students, Speech and Hearing students, students of Physical Education among others in anatomy, neuroanatomy, forensic anthropology, genetics and human biology and also supervised numerous postgraduate students. As an anthropologist she initiated the study of forensic science in the Wits Department of Anatomy and often gave assistance to the police with the identification of human remains. Hertha de Villiers provided the University of the Witwatersrand with outstanding service for

close on 33 years. In addition, with her strong background in anthropology and genetics she provided invaluable assistance to the Princess Alice Nursing Home in the placing of orphaned babies and children.

Needless to say it was easy to become fascinated by Hertha.....and for good reason. She was an outstanding academic, exhorting her students to achieve excellence, engaging us in debate and extending our minds. She was highly intelligent, had a sharp mind, a sharp wit and stood her ground when being challenged either in thought or deed by some of the staff in the Department. She introduced her students to an array of international scientists undertaking research in many different fields and enjoyed the ensuing discussions and debates. She had high standards and she instilled this in those of us she nurtured. Not only was she a brilliant academic, she was a remarkable woman and a role model to many. Hertha de Villiers was a woman before her time, a strong woman, enlightened and enlightening, well travelled and worldly.

Professor Hertha De Villiers is survived by her son, Dr Adrian de Villiers, a Wits trained medical practitioner and radiologist, her daughter-in-law Coleen and two grandsons. Her daughter, Phillipa de Villiers, is an accomplished journalist.

Bibliography

- The Skull of the South African Negro. 1968. de Villiers, H. Witwatersrand University Press. Foreword pp iiv-iiv.
- Variation, Culture and Evolution in African Populations. Editors Singer, R and Lundy JK. Witwatersrand University Press, Johannesburg, 1986. Foreword and introduction. Pp iiv-xv1.

Prof B Kramer