



**NEWSLETTER OF THE
ANATOMICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTHERN AFRICA**

2019

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Message from the President of the Anatomical Society of Southern Africa

A warm thank you to each and every one who attended the 47th Conference of the Anatomical Society of Southern Africa that was hosted by the University of Pretoria in April. For all of us, it is a highlight every year when we come together to renew old acquaintances, meet new colleagues, interact with our postgraduate students from across Southern Africa – and beyond – as well as discover the latest information about the projects in which researchers are involved. Another series of special events are the workshops and seminars run by the various Special Interest Groups.

I would like to express my appreciation to the local Organising Committee for all their hard work and dedication in making this Conference happen, especially in the light of these rather challenging economic times. We appreciate the commitment made by each one of you in your own special way. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank Prof. Maryna Steyn who preceded me as President of the Society. Her dedication to the wellbeing of the Society as an entity – but especially the members that make up the Society – was commendable and much appreciated! This is my first term as President of ASSA, having begun my role on Council as a junior Council member followed by two terms as the Secretary of the Society. It was within the latter position that I had the great privilege to work closely with Prof. Graham Louw, as well as Prof. Maryna Steyn who superseded him. They both served ASSA with dedication, commitment and humility – and I would hope to follow in their distinguished footsteps. Luckily the Society has a diverse, experienced and passionate group of anatomists that serve as the Office Bearers and Members of the ASSA Council. It is important to state how grateful we should be to be supported by these excellent individuals, all of whom have made a remarkable commitment to the various duties that they have volunteered to perform.

Lastly, I would like to thank all members of ASSA who supports the Society with their contributions, membership and attendance of and participation during the annual conferences. Thank you also for your trust in me and the Council and I look forward to when we meet each other again.

With best wishes,



Professor Albert van Schoor
University of Pretoria

In tribute to Emeritus Professor Ann Andrew



Emeritus Professor Ann Andrew passed away quietly on the 14th August 2019. She died as she had lived, without ceremony or fuss. Ann was an internationally recognised researcher and was regarded as a leading figure in the field of experimental embryology.

Although one's life is not defined by one's academic achievements, Ann's academic record was most certainly exemplary. She obtained a BSc (1948), a BSc Honours (1953), a MSc (1956) and a PhD (1963) all from the University of the Witwatersrand and while based in the Department of Zoology. In 1982 Ann submitted a collection of research papers for, and was awarded a DSc, the senior Doctorate of the University. Among the awards and grants which Ann achieved was the prestigious South African Academy of Science and Arts Junior Captain Scott Memorial Medal for an exemplary Masters dissertation (1960).

Although trained in Zoology and having worked in the Zoology Department at the University of the Witwatersrand, in 1953 Ann transferred to the Wits Faculty of Medicine where she was appointed as a Graduate Assistant in the Department of Anatomy. In 1954, she was appointed to an academic post at the level of lecturer but easily climbed the academic ladder to appointment as Associate Professor by 1969. The Department of Anatomy was based in the old Medical School on Hospital Hill. Professor Phillip Tobias was Head of the Department at that time and from 1959 Ann worked under his guidance as Supervisor of the Micro-Anatomy section of the Department until her retirement in 1989. Ann's exceptional work and skills were recognized by the Faculty of Medicine in 1979 when she was promoted to the position of *Ad Hominem* Professor of Experimental Embryology. She was made a Fellow of the Royal Society of South Africa from 1989.

Her intense interest in experimental embryology, particularly in relation to the neural crest and gastro-intestinal and pancreatic endocrine cells led to Professor being appointed as Leader of a Wits research entity known as the "Experimental Embryology Research Group" (1979 – 1992).

Early in the 60's, Professor Andrew had disagreed with a proposal that all APUD (Amine Precursor Uptake and Decarboxylation) cells were neural crest in origin. Together with her collaborators, Professors Bengy Rawdon, Bev Kramer and others, she set about disproving this

hypothesis. Ann's work was meticulous and the team worked hard at carrying out a variety of finely tuned, intricately planned experiments to disprove the hypothesis and they did. While it took a substantial amount of time (almost 20 years), the "APUD Ghost" was laid to rest. It was a feather in Ann's cap when the originator of the hypothesis finally acknowledged the outcomes of her work!



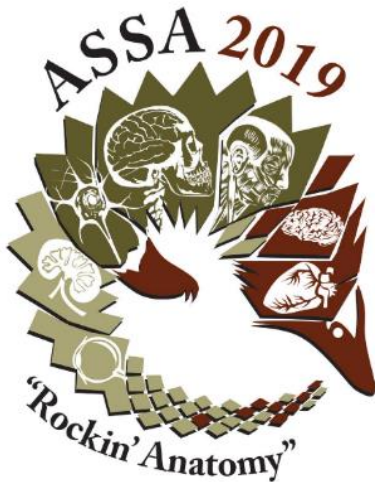
While Professor Andrew officially retired in 1989 as an Emeritus Professor, her love of research kept her in the Department of Anatomy as an Honorary Research Professorial Fellow until 1996. In 1995, a Festschrift was published in her honour. The chapters in the Festschrift 'Embryos, Endocrine cells and the Neural Crest' edited by B Kramer and B Rawdon, were contributed by numerous international and local collaborators and friends. They are testimony to Ann's quest for scientific truth through embryological exactness.

Professor Andrew was not only an expert histologist, immunocytochemist, and a superb experimental embryologist, but she was also an inspiring teacher. A model to explain the complicated rotation of the gastro-intestinal tract in the human embryo and fetus to students which Ann designed and published in 1961, is still in use over 50 years later. Etched in my memory is the research training she provided in fine motor skills, careful analysis and ethical behaviour. These skills, which were innate to Ann, were passively induced into those she taught and were part of the excellence that defined the nature of the training which we received from her. In addition, in honour of Ann's exceptional contributions to teaching and research in micro-anatomy and embryology, the micro-anatomy laboratory in the Department was named the Ann Andrew Histology Laboratory.

Ann lived a wonderfully full life. Her love of the outdoors, of hiking and of travelling were well known. She played tennis, squash, league hockey, sang in both the St Columba's church choir and the National Symphony choir and loved gardening.....all this while she was supervising the micro-anatomy staff and students, busily correcting her PhD students' theses and writing over 50 articles! Ann Andrew provided the University of the Witwatersrand with outstanding service for over 45 years, establishing skills and research integrity among her students which will be carried on to future generations of academics. She is survived by her brother Dr William (Bill) Andrew, a Wits trained medical practitioner, her sister-in-law Greta and their family.

**Emeritus Professor Beverley Kramer
University of the Witwatersrand**

47th Conference of the Anatomical Society of Southern Africa



The 47th Annual Conference of the Anatomical Society of Southern Africa (ASSA) was held from the 7th to the 10th of April 2019 at the Kwa-Maritane Bush Lodge, North West Province, South Africa.

The theme, Rockin' Anatomy, recognized Anatomists as a scientific community that understands the “awesomeness” of Anatomy as a science, with its roots in the past and an increasing application in modern science, teaching and diagnostics. The prehistoric pangolin, the symbol of the conference, reflects the history of Anatomy while the interlocking scales represents the different fields of Anatomy including, clinical anatomy, cell biology, histology, neurosciences, developmental biology, oro-facial biology, physical anthropology, palaeoanthropology, veterinary sciences, that together create a functional entity. The

conference was an opportunity for delegates including medical and veterinary clinicians, researchers and scientists with an interest in the anatomical sciences to meet and interact in their specific areas of research. This conference was also of particular importance for young academics and students, providing them with an opportunity to meet and discuss their research with top local and international subject experts.

The Thomson-Stibbe Lecture was presented on the Sunday evening, prior to the opening day of the conference, by Prof. Erik Hohmann, Fellowship trained orthopaedic sports medicine and trauma surgeon, an Associate Professor with the University of Queensland, as well as an Extraordinary Professor in the Department of Anatomy, University of Pretoria. Prof. Hohmann presented on translational research “from the lab into the operating room and back” and also chaired the session on Translational Clinical Anatomy.

The conference was a great success and at the conclusion the date and venue for the 2020 conference were decided.

Prof. Albert van Schoor
University of Pretoria



Attendees of the 47th Annual Conference of the Anatomical Society of Southern Africa, Kwa-Maritane Bush Lodge, North West Province, South Africa.



Council members of the Anatomical Society of Southern Africa

ASSA 2019

Conference presentation prizes

The Antoinette Kotzé Award
for best first-time presenter was awarded to
Mr JP Marais (Wits)



The ASSA Award
for best presentation by a young researcher was awarded to
Mr CA Keyes (Wits)



The SV Naidoo Award
for the best poster was awarded to
Ms. S Ishwarkumar (UJ)



The Willie Vorster Award
for best poster presentation by a first-time presenter was awarded to
Ms. MJ Bredenkamp (SUN)



The Hanno Boon Award
for the best presentation in Medical Education was awarded to
Ms. A König (UP)



IFAA President's Emergent Anatomists Program (PEAP)

The President's Emergent Anatomists Programme (PEAP) was recently launched during the 19th Congress of the International Federation of Associations of Anatomists (IFAA) in London. The President of the IFAA, Professor Beverley Kramer, initiated this programme following international requests from emergent anatomists for guidance on professional development, curriculum design and initiation of research and collaborations.



PEAP workshop organisers: Professor Beverley Kramer (President IFAA, South Africa), Ms Francesca du Toit (Netherlands), Professor Nalini Pather (Chair of FIPAE, Australia), Dr Carol Hartmann (South Africa), Dr Erin Hutchinson (South Africa)

The inaugural workshop of PEAP was established subsequent to a survey being sent out to emergent anatomists registered with Member Associations of the IFAA. As a result of the survey, a clearly expressed need for capacity building within the discipline of Anatomy and developing supportive collaborative networks was evident. This inaugural symposium was

the first step in establishing an IFAA-led PEAP to support and nurture the next generation of anatomists in their research, teaching and professional development. Thus the aim of the London symposium was to bring together established and experienced mentors with emergent anatomists i.e. those registered for a higher degree and/or employed in knowledge-based institutions, who are actively trying to establish themselves as an anatomical sciences researcher, educationalist or advocate.

With attendees from all four corners of the globe, the inaugural workshop, co-chaired by Professor Nalini Pather and Ms Francesca du Toit was a hive of active engagement. Subsequent to a warm welcome by Professor Kramer, results of the IFAA survey were presented by Professor Pather. Professor Lynne Oppermann, Regents Professor and Head of the Department of Biomedical Sciences at Texas A&M University Medical Centre, presented her keynote address entitled: "Many roads, Mentors, Lemons and Lemonade to becoming a successful scientist and educator".



Professor Lynne Opperman (Keynote speaker, USA) and Professor Beverley Kramer (President IFAA)



Workshop contributors. Left: Professor Guido Macarelli (ISMS president), Professor Beverley Kramer, Professor Diago Pias, Professor Nalini Pather, Dr Segun Oyedele, Professor Darell Evans, Ms Francesca du Toit

During the event expert panellists, Professors Beverley Kramer (RSA), Lynne Oppermann (USA), Darell Evans (Australia), Laura Borgno (Uruguay) and Diago Pias (Portugal); Assistant Professor Akira Shinaoka (Japan) and Dr Segun Oyedele (Canada), recalled some of their experiences over the course of their career journeys. Panellists also imparted with valuable advice to emergent anatomists during the subsequent question and answer session, which provided emergent anatomists present with a platform to seek clarity on dealing with a variety of academic development issues.

Attendees were then invited to participate in round table discussions with the panellists addressing pertinent themes for emerging anatomists namely: “What challenges do you face in your context?” and “What would you find helpful?”. These

round table discussions also served as an opportunity for emergent anatomists to engage with their peers as well as potential mentors associated with the PEAP program. The workshop was then closed off with concluding remarks presented by the President of the International Symposium of Morphological Sciences (ISMS) Professor Guido Macarelli.

The PEAP team would like to extend their heartfelt thanks to the Best Network (www.best.edu.au) as well as HS talks (www.HSTalks.com) for their sponsorship of and assistance with the PEAP programme. Emergent Anatomists are encouraged to engage with this programme and may do so by signing up at <https://forms.gle/FQmHHZVPFW431Vah6>

**Dr Erin Hutchinson
University of the Witwatersrand**

IFAA Matters

Emeritus Professor Beverley Kramer re-elected as President of the International Federation of Associations of Anatomists (IFAA)



Emeritus Professor Beverley Kramer (IFAA President)

At its General Assembly held at the IFAA 2019 Congress in London in August, the International Federation of Associations of Anatomists (IFAA) reaffirmed Professor Beverley Kramer as President of the Federation for a further five years (2019-2024). Professor Kramer was originally elected as President in 2014 and was the first woman in over 100 years of the Federation's existence to be appointed to this leadership role. As President, Professor Kramer has recruited 20 additional anatomical associations to the

fold of the IFAA, initiated an international programme for emergent anatomists and has expanded the Federations programmes and committees to reflect the diversity and activities of the Federation and of the discipline of Anatomy. Following her retirement, Professor Kramer still continues to be active in the School of Anatomical Sciences, Faculty of Health Sciences, University of the Witwatersrand.

Matters arising from the General Assembly of the 19th Congress IFAA in London.

During the General Assembly of the 19th Congress of the IFAA, the following members of the full IFAA Executive Board were confirmed for the period of 2019 to 2024: President: Bev Kramer, Immediate past-President: Bernard Moxham, Vice Presidents: Yun-qing Li (until 2021), Ceri Davies (until 2021), Erdogan Sendemir (until 2024), Secretary General: Diogo Pais, Treasurer: Tom Gest, Secretaries: Phil Blythe, Susanna Biasutto, Richard Halti Cabral, Editor of the Newsletter: Plexus – to be determined, Chair FIPAE: Nalini Pather, Chair FIPAT: Shane Tubbs, Chair FICAR/FIPAR: to be announced in near future, Chair FICEM: Andreas Winkelmann, Chair FICSP: Gulgun Sengul, Chair FICEDA: Odile Plaisant, Chair FICSAP: Helen Nicholson, New Chair College of Representatives: To be announced if committee is approved by member Associations, Observer: ISMS President: Professor Guido Macchiarelli, Additional member: Korean President of the 2024 Congress who will become a Vice President from 2021.

Three new important proposals to the IFAA Constitution were suggested by the Executive Board to the General Assembly and will be circulated to representatives of member associations for voting *ad referendum* soon. The new proposals are in relation to (a) voting of member associations (b) the upgrading of the Research Committee to a Programme and (c) the introduction of a College of Representatives. In addition a proposal on the term of office of Vice Presidents of the IFAA will also be circulated for voting purposes.

Twenty one new member associations were admitted to membership of the IFAA. The admission of over 20 societies to the IFAA in the last few years is a major feat and indicates the viability of the IFAA and the desire of international anatomists

to work together. Terminologia Embryologica and Terminologia Neuroanatomica were approved by the General Assembly. The new Terminologia Anatomica will be circulated to member Associations shortly for perusal, comment and ratification. "International Anatomy Day" was celebrated on the 15th October. The week of the 15th October will be designated for any anatomical activities Associations may wish to undertake.

The next IFAA Congress will be hosted by the Turkish Association of Anatomists in Istanbul in 2021. Thereafter the Korean Association of Anatomists will host the IFAA Congress in 2024 in Busan, South Korea.

Emeritus Professor Beverley Kramer
IFAA President

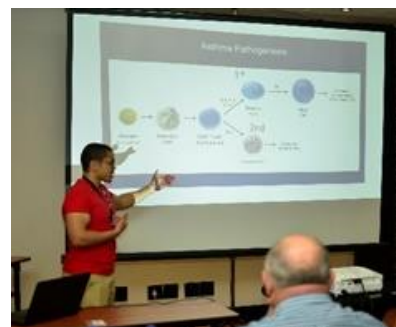
Walter Sisulu University : Department of Human Biology

Professor Constance Rusike, HOD Human Biology recently attended the SAMRC symposium (29 - 30 August 2019) at ICC in East London, which was themed "Advancing research in the eastern cape province". This was an effort by SAMRC to highlight research efforts in the Eastern Cape Universities, share research work and promote collaborations (UFH, NMU, Rhodes and WSU).



Professor Constance Rusike

Mr S Mfengu (MSc student) presented an oral presentation on the pathogenesis of asthma at the 47th PSSA conference hosted by the Department of Human Biology (18 to 21 August 2019).



Mr S Mfengu (MSc student)

Mathulo Shauli

University of the Witwatersrand: School of Anatomical Sciences

School matters

Over the course of 2019, the School of Anatomical Sciences has been bustling with activity and excitement. As a school we are very proud of the achievements of staff and students as well as the participation of our colleagues in various activities and events both locally and globally! Congratulations to Diana Pillay who will officially graduate with her PhD in the December Faculty of Health Sciences graduation. Diana's project was entitled: "The effect of intrauterine alcohol exposure on postnatal skeletal development in Sprague Dawley rats" and examined intrauterine alcohol exposure on postnatal skeletal development. Alcohol consumption during pregnancy is a medico-socioeconomic burden as children of such mothers have Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders (FASD), affecting growth and development. Skeletal investigations exhibited age dependant chondrocyte proliferation perturbations and alterations in the microarchitecture. Early stages after birth were most affected, with postnatal recovery. Adequate nutrition pre- and postnatally yielded improved outcomes at adolescence stages, hence, Diana and colleagues recommend nutritional interventions as part of FASD management.

We bid farewell to Mrs Joyce Mabizela and Dr Robert Ndou and extend our congratulations to Robert on his appointment as Associate Professor and Head of the Department of Anatomy, Sefako Makgatho Health Sciences University.



Dr Josh Davimes

We also welcome Dr Josh Davimes to the academic staff. Joshua joined the Wits School of Anatomical Sciences as a lecturer in September 2019. He obtained his PhD in 2018 at Wits University. His thesis was in the field of comparative sleep neuroscience working on wild Arabian oryx in the deserts of Saudi Arabia. Josh's previous research was focused on the sleep neuroanatomy of the Rock hyrax (Dassie), Blesbok and Arabian oryx. He obtained both his BSc and BHSc Honours at Wits and worked as a table doctor in dissections for 5 years. He also lectured Anatomy part-time at both UJ and Wits between 2016 and 2019. His current research and interests involve several multi-disciplinary collaborative projects that includes sleep and temperature, forensic facial identification, post-surgical recovery patterns and clinical anatomy variations.

He is an avid photographer and travel addict on the side.

ASSA 2019

Staff and students of the School of Anatomical Sciences attended the 47th Annual Conference of the Anatomical Society of Southern Africa, Kwa Maritane Bush Lodge and Conference Centre, Pilanesberg, North West Province hosted by the University of Pretoria in April this year. Dr Desiré Brits presented a paper entitled: "The shifting profile of a cadaver population" with co-authors Dr B Billings, Professor B Kramer and Dr EF Hutchinson. Dr Brits also presented two poster presentations. The first poster presentation was entitled "Examining the osseous moustache", co-authored by Dr EF Hutchinson, for which she was the 1st runner up for SV Naidoo Award for best poster presentation. The second poster presentation was entitled "Maceration of burnt remains" and was co-authored by Ms. A Triaca, Ms. T Mahon and Dr J Myburgh.

Dr Erin Hutchinson presented a paper entitled: "The curious mind: A millennial student's perception of the anatomy laboratory experience", co-authored by Dr C Hartmann and Professor B Kramer. Dr Tobias Houlton presented a poster entitled: "Soft and hard-tissue relationships of the mouth in a South African population", which was co-authored by Ms N Jooste, Dr J Hemingway, Dr A Uys and Professor M Steyn. In addition, Mr. JP Meyer presented his research work entitled: "Facial age mapping in black and coloured South African children", while Ms. J Fredericks presented her research related to the midline cranial base growth and its relationship with vault shape.



Drs. Pedzisai Mazenganya, Erin Hutchinson and Tobias Houlton (ASSA 2019)

100 Years of Teaching Excellence

2019 officially marks 100 years of teaching excellence for our school and to mark the occasion, the School of Anatomical Sciences hosted a series of events which coincided with World Anatomy Day, the birthday of Andreas Vesalius (15 October).

The programme of events highlighted the rich diversity of the teaching and research interests of the school. The Anatomy exhibition and body donation information session located at the Maropeng Museum between the 23rd September and 5th October provided a rich platform for engagement between the public and members of staff and postgraduate students of the School of Anatomical Sciences. During this period the support and technical staff also took time out to visit Maropeng and engage in some of the activities on offer.

To compliment the Anatomy exhibition and body donation information session, Dr Brendon Billings and various members of staff also compiled a series of You Tube videos speaking directly to the impact and value of body donation, these may be viewed under the following heading: Donate your body, change a life (Wits School of Anatomical Sciences).

The centenary celebrations also included two student events. The undergraduate student event took the format of a selfie challenge. Undergraduate students were asked to dress up as their favourite super hero and then add a medical twist to the outfit, following which they needed to submit their selfie. Postgraduate students as well as anatomy staff were challenged to a postgraduate quiz night, where quiz teams were asked to dress up. Prizes were

awarded to the best dressed as well as the winning team. In addition a lecture series was presented on the 15th October to commemorate World Anatomy Day, Emeritus Professor Kramer presented a lecture on the history of the School of Anatomical Sciences and various young academics presented lectures on the future of Anatomy teaching. The centenary celebrations concluded with a guest lecture by Professor L Chait addressing his memories of his association with Wits Anatomy over the years and the awarding of prizes to the “Art of Anatomy” competition winners.



Front row left: Professor Maryna Steyn, Dr Ilke Malungo, Dr Ayanda Ngwenya. Back row left: Emeritus Professor Beverley Kramer, Mrs Glynis Veale, Professor Amadi Ihunwo, Mrs Aleksandra Jovanovic, Dr Desire Brits, Professor Lynne Schepartz, Dr Tanya Augustine, Mrs Kutlwano Xulu



School of Anatomical Sciences Technical and Support Staff at Maropeng in celebration of 100 years of Teaching Excellence in Anatomy

FASE

Dr Brits and Professor Steyn also attended the bi-annual Advanced Course and Symposium hosted by the Forensic Anthropology Society of Europe (FASE) in Brussels, Belgium during September. The theme of this year's advance course was "Biomechanics". At the symposium Dr Brits presented a paper entitled "Identifying and understanding surgical interventions – the case of the osseous moustache" co-authored by Dr EF Hutchinson and also did a poster presentation entitled "Introducing During the course of the year Dr Brits presented two symposia and two workshops. Two Lodox symposia entitled "Introduction to Lodox Systems" and "How to take image on the Lodox Statscan machine & pattern recognition" respectively. Both symposia were hosted by the Human Variation and Identification Research Unit, School of Anatomical Sciences, in collaboration with Lodox Systems and the Department of Forensic

Lodox statscans into forensic anthropology". Professor Steyn presented a poster presentation entitled "Patterning of fractures in a case of intimate partner femicide (IPF)" which was co-authored by Drs N Bacci and S Holland. The FASE course and symposium hosted a number of renowned forensic anthropologists from around the globe and offered invaluable networking and collaboration opportunities.

HVIRU

Medicine and Pathology, School of Clinical Medicine. Talks were presented by Ms Bongekile Nkosi from Lodox Systems South Africa who presented step-by-step instructions on how to take Lodox images, while discussions of various case studies were also presented. These symposia were attended by staff members, postgraduate students and clinicians.

Dr Brits also arranged two workshops partially funded by the American Academy of Forensic Sciences Humanitarian and Human Rights Resource Center (AAFS HHRRC). The workshops entitled “Forensic archaeology – Excavating buried remains” and “Taphonomy and Decomposition” respectively included lectures from Mrs A Meyer, Professor M Steyn, Mr C Keyes, Mr L Hill, Dr N Keough and Dr J Myburgh. The course was limited to 20 participants and included attendees from the South African Police Service (SAPS), staff and students from Nigeria,

University of the Free State, University of KwaZulu Natal, University of the Witwatersrand and Durban University of Technology as well as individuals from South African museums. The first workshop taught participants how to identify and excavating buried remains while the second workshop taught participants how to separate human and non-human remains and how to deal with commingled remains. Participants were also introduced to taphonomy, decomposition and forensic entomology.



HVIRU: Attendees of the first Lodox Symposium



HVIRU: Group photo with delegates at the Taphonomy and Decomposition workshop



Witsies past and present attending the IFAA conference. From left to right: Dr Carol Hartmann, Professor Tracey Wilkinson, Professor Sam Asala, Professor Lynne Oppermann, Professor Shahed Nalla, Professor Nalini Pather, Professor Kevin Kuykendall, Professor Manisha Dayal, Dr Tanya Calvey, Professor Olusegun Oyedele, Professor Beverley Kramer, Professors Mira and Goran Strkajl

IFAA Congress in London

The 2019 edition of the IFAA congress in London was a hive of excitement as the conference kicked-off at the Excel Conference centre with a key note address from Professor Susan Standring, editor of Gray's Anatomy. Staff and students from the School of Anatomical Sciences seized the opportunity to reunite with past staff and students at a reunion organised by Professor Tracey Wilkinson where old friends took time out of the hectic conference schedule to reminisce. Dr Tanya Calvey and Ms Surraine Smit presented posters on their current research, while Dr Erin Hutchinson, Dr Carol Hartmann, Mrs Kutlwano Xulu, Ms Kyrthania Pather and Ms Tamara Lottering gave oral presentations.

Dr Erin Hutchinson and Dr Desire Brits



Top left: Dr Tanya Calvey. Top right: Mrs Kutlwano Xulu and Ms Kyrthania Pather. Bottom left: Ms Surraine Smit and Ms Tamara Lottering. Bottom right: Professor Beverley Kramer and Dr Carol Hartmann

University of the Witwatersrand: Forensic Medicine and Pathology

Department matters

This year our Department welcomed Ms. Allison Gilbert as our new forensic anthropology technician. Unfortunately the department had to say goodbye to our previous forensic anthropology technician, Ms. Trisha-Jean Mahon, who has now joined the International Committee of the Red Cross – her current deployment is as a Forensic Specialist in Ukraine.

47th Annual Conference of the Anatomical Society of Southern Africa

Mr. Craig Keyes attended the 47th Annual Conference of the Anatomical Society of Southern Africa. Mr. Keyes presented two oral presentations: 1) Scavenging trauma on bone (co-authored by Dr. Jolandie Myburgh and Dr. Desiré Brits), and 2) An Introduction to the Johannesburg Identification Unit (coauthored by Ms. Trisha-Jean Mahon, Dr. Candice Hansmeyer, Mr. Stephen Fonseca, and Prof. Jeanine Vellema). Mr. Keyes won the Best Young Presenter Award for the second year in a row.

Disaster Scene and Mortuary Management Workshop

Dr. Shakeera Holland and Mr. Craig Keyes were invited by the International Committee of the Red Cross to attend their Disaster Scene and Mortuary Management Workshop as the South African delegates

for 2019. Other delegates came from Zimbabwe, Mozambique, Tanzania, South Sudan, Burundi, Tunisia, Ethiopia, and Australia. The aim of the workshop was to train African forensic specialists on how to handle disasters and mass fatalities. A few of the topics covered included mortuary management in a disaster, engaging with the media in a disaster, developing a mass fatality plan, victim identification, and the identification of mines and how to traverse a mine field. A practical was held at the Wonderboom Airport where the simulation of a plane crash was enacted.



Mr. Craig Keyes (Wits) and Mr. Neil Morris (ICRC) at the Disaster Scene and Mortuary Management Workshop



Staged plane crash simulation at Wonderboom Airport as part of the Disaster Scene and Mortuary Management Workshop



Delegates at the Human Identification Workshop



Dr. Desiré Brits and Mr. Craig Keyes x-raying (LODOX) an unidentified individual during the Human Identification Workshop

Interviews by Carte Blanche and 702 Radio

Carte Blanche interviewed the staff members of the Department of Forensic Medicine and Pathology in relation to their ongoing efforts as members of the Johannesburg Identification Unit and their humanitarian work in performing secondary examinations of the unidentified deceased for identification purposes. The feature will be aired in an upcoming episode.

Prof. Jeanine Vellema was also interviewed by 702 Radio on the Johannesburg Identification Unit. A number of news sites have also published interviews and the ongoing efforts of the unit, including Bloomberg. Adj. Prof. Gerard Labuschagne was also interviewed

by Carte Blanche in relation to the serial killings of homeless men in Pretoria.

Forensic Genetics Workshop

The Department of the Forensic Medicine and Pathology hosted the Forensic Sciences Honours students and Human Genetics Honours students for a Forensic Genetics Workshop. Presentations were given by representatives of the Department of Forensic Medicine and Pathology, Division of Human Genetics, Victim Identification Centre of the South African Police Service, Lancet, DNABiotec, and the Forensic Pathology Services. The SAPS Forensic Laboratories was hosted the attendees for a tour of the Questioned Documents Section, Biology Section, Chemistry Section, and Ballistics Section.

HVIRU Forensic Archaeology Workshop and Forensic Taphonomy Workshop

Ms. Allison Gilbert and Mr. Craig Keyes attended the HVIRU workshops hosted by the School of Anatomical Sciences, University of the Witwatersrand. Mr. Lawrence Hill and Mr. Craig Keyes also gave presentations and assisted with the facilitation of the Forensic Taphonomy Workshop.

Mr Craig Keys



Mr. Lawrence Hill and Ms. Allison Gilbert collecting insects from a pig carcass during the HVIRU Forensic Taphonomy Workshop



Mr. Craig Keyes and other delegates during the HVIRU Forensic Archaeology Workshop



Ms. Allison Gilbert (far right) and other delegates during the HVIRU Forensic Archaeology Workshop

University of Stellenbosch: Division of Clinical Anatomy

The Division of Clinical Anatomy at Stellenbosch University is undergoing many exciting changes in 2019, such as the appointment of new staff and the construction of the new Biomedical Research Institute adjacent to the FISAN building.

The construction of the BMRI (Biomedical Research Institute) on the medical campus of the University Stellenbosch.

The renewal of the old to the new.

Since 14 January 2019, soil removal trucks, cranes and cement trucks have been a familiar sight to staff, students and visitors to the medical campus. This is due to the construction of the new Biomedical Research Institute (BMRI) adjacent and connecting to the FISAN building where the division of Clinical Anatomy is currently housed. This R1 billion state-of-the-art research facility will be completed in 2022. It is built for the investigation of diseases that impact communities in South Africa

and Africa, such as TB, HIV, diabetes and heart disease.

The building started as a big hole on the northern side of the “old” Fisan-building and over the past few months a huge cement “skeleton” arose noisily from the hole. This skeleton forms the framework of the enormous building and is slowly growing every day. “Arteries and veins” are starting to appear in the form of electrical, air-conditioning and water pipes. Bridges between the old FISAN and the new building form the arms and legs of the new building. These bridges will span over the atrium, the entrance to the new complex.

The Division of Clinical Anatomy will be housed in the new revamped FISAN building and many changes are already seen such as staff moving, offices being broken into and the closure of the medical museum. Even the “heart” of Clinical Anatomy, the morgue is feeling the effects of the construction which is challenging for the normal functioning of the Division to say the least. Hopefully next year we can give news on all the progress made.



Models indicating what the new building will look like

New staff members



Kerri Keet and Rudolph Venter

Kerri Keet and Rudolph Venter were appointed as lecturers in January 2019. Ms Keet holds a Masters degree in Anatomy from the University of Cape Town, where she also worked as a lecturer for 4 years prior to appointment at Stellenbosch University. Her research interests include all aspects of clinical anatomy and forensic anatomy and she has several collaborations with local and international clinicians and anatomists. Her focus is applying anatomical methods to solve clinical problems, particularly in a South African context.

Dr Venter is an orthopaedic surgeon at Tygerberg hospital with a part-time appointment in the Division of Clinical Anatomy. His research interests are

centered around collaborative projects between orthopaedics, clinical anatomy and biomedical engineering. Dr Venter is in charge of the medical 3D printing lab, located in the orthopaedic department at Tygerberg hospital. His clinical interests focuses on limb reconstruction techniques for deformity correction and limb length discrepancy.

Both Ms Keet and Dr Venter are part of the Bakeng se Afrika (BsA) team, an international multi-centre effort to develop an imaging repository of mostly South African anthropological skeletal collections. A forensic bone trauma workshop was held in Coimbra University, Portugal in September where Dr Venter was an invited speaker.



Dr Venter at Coimbra University, Portugal.

Retirement

As we welcome new staff into our Division, we also have to say a sad farewell to Dr Bertha Bastiaanse, who retires at the end of 2019. Dr Bastiaanse started her teaching career in Anatomy in the late seventies and loved almost every minute of each year. She feels very lucky to have worked with wonderful colleagues and thinks fondly of wonderful students in whom she inspired a love for anatomy. Her efforts to instill knowledge, tolerance, kindness and patience, forms an important part of their future and her legacy in the Division. Dr Bastiaanse says will miss her colleagues and the intellectually stimulating environment they created, and thanks them for their support throughout the years. We thank you Bertha and will miss you greatly!



Dr Bertha Bastiaanse

ASSA attendance

Four staff members (Dr Karin Baatjes, Prof Sanet Kotze, Ms Kerri Keet and Mr Bryan Bergsteedt) and two postgraduate students (Ms Karen Cilliers and Ms Meghan

Bredenkamp) attended and presented at the annual ASSA conference at Pilanesberg in April. Mr Bergsteedt was first runner up and Ms Bredenkamp the winner of the Willie Vorster Award for best poster presentation by a first-time presenter.



From left: Ms Cilliers, Dr Baatjes, Ms Keet, Prof Kotze, Mr Bergsteedt, and Ms Bredenkamp.

Annual Thanksgiving Service

Yearly, the Division of Clinical Anatomy, Stellenbosch University holds a Thanksgiving service where students and staff honour the bodies donated for research and education purposes. Family members are invited to attend. This year, on 31 July, during the ceremony we had performances from both under- and postgraduate students, including poem readings, songs and presentations. We are grateful to those who even in death, help students, scientists and clinicians learn and study the human body.



Images taken during the ceremony this year which was attended by staff, students and family members of donors



SUAS Launch April 2019

This year the students from Stellenbosch University launched the Stellenbosch University Anatomy Society (SUAS), the first of its kind in South Africa. SUAS is an all-inclusive student-led society, who aims to bridge the gaps and promote the applications and importance of anatomy between health care professions through our common subject of anatomy. We had our official launch in April and which was well attended by students and staff. The guest speakers included Prof Ian Vlok, head of Neurosurgery at SU and Prof Johan Dempers, head of Forensic Pathology. They gave us a brief overview focussing on how anatomy is being applied daily in their respective disciplines. We are looking forward to our first mini Conference that will be taking place in October 2019.



Executive Committee 2018/2019: f.l.t.r. Stephanie Lathe, Rachel Pieterse, Elsje-Marie Geldenhuys (Chairperson), Adrian Jansen van Rensburg, Dr. Karin Baatjes (Honorary President), Michaela Middleton, Narusa Doubell

FameLab

In February, three Masters students, Stephanie Lathe, Michaela Middleton, and Rachel Pieterse, took part in the two-day FameLab regional heat, a competition focused on scientific communication, delivered by the British Council and Jive Media. Ms Lathe came first and was invited to the three-day national heat in Durban during May. At the regional heat, she was not placed but felt fortunate to attend an invaluable two-day masterclass presented by British scientific communication enthusiast Matthew Tosh.



Ms Lathe (centre)

Social Impact

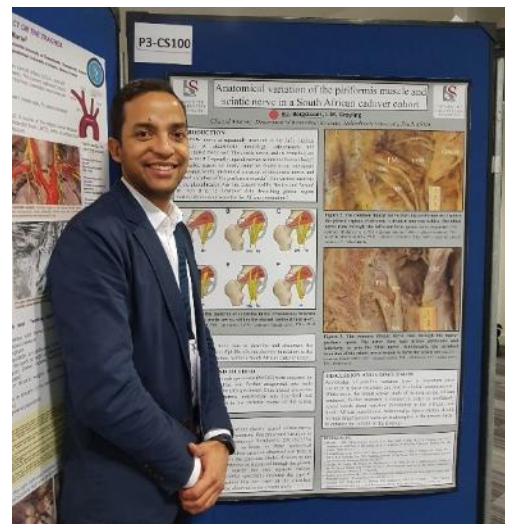
The three divisions forming the Department of Biomedical Sciences (Clinical Anatomy, Medical Physiology, Molecular Biology and Human Genetics) hosted an information day at Voorbrug Secondary School on the 28 August. Topics included health and wellness, how to become a medical scientist, communicable and non-communicable diseases and DNA extraction. A fun day was had by all and we look forward to the next initiative.

News from individuals

Dr Karin Baatjes attended the IFAA conference in August in London and found the congress insightful. She was also very encouraged by the formation of the Emergent Anatomists concept. Dr Baatjes visited the Anatomy department of the University of Aberdeen en route to the IFAA, where she was hosted by Prof Simon Parson and his team. The reception to their department was warm and Dr Baatjes presented a short overview of our division and gained some insights, perspective and contacts from the interaction with Prof Parson and his staff.

Mr Bryan Bergsteedt attended his first national and international conference this year. In addition to presenting his research at the 47th annual ASSA conference, he

also attended the 2019 IFAA conference. This was a great opportunity to meet local and international researchers. Amongst many interesting sessions, he also attended the inaugural symposium for the President's Emergent Anatomists Programme (PEAP) and looks forward to what this will offer in terms of mentorship and career development. Whilst in the United Kingdom, he met with academics at the University of Cambridge and University of York, in what was the onset to establishing interdisciplinary partnerships with academics in the region.



Mr Bergsteedt standing in front of his poster, at the 2019 IFAA in London, UK

Prof Sanet Kotzé attended and contributed to the AMEE 2019 conference which was held in Vienna, Austria from 25 to 28 August. This year, the AMEE (An International Association for Medical Education) conference was attended by more than 4000 participants representing 94 countries from across the globe. As always, the conference was very informative with more than 40 parallel sessions (including symposia, short communications, workshops, e-posters and poster sessions) presented at any given time.



Prof Sanet Kotzé pictured with some of the presenters in the session where she contributed. The session was chaired by Prof Samy Azer from King Saud University, Saudi Arabia (centre). This year two sessions were devoted to the teaching of anatomy.

Prof Kotzé spend a six-week period in the laboratory of Prof Ann Huisseune, head of the Evolutionary Developmental Group in the Biology Department, Ghent University.

evolution of skeletal tissues in non-mammalian (mostly teleost fish) species and has implications for the fish farming industry. She is a world expert on the evolution and development of non-mammalian teeth, particularly pharyngeal teeth in teleost fish. For these studies, Prof Huisseune and her research team use various histomorphological and histochemical procedures and advanced imaging techniques. During her visit, Prof Kotzé started a collaborative study on the anatomy of the zebrafish pharyngeal area.



Prof Kotzé with Prof Ann Huisseune in front of the Biology Department, Ghent University.

Prof Huisseune leads a lab dedicated to studies of the structure, development and



Dr Mandi Alblas

Dr Mandi Alblas successfully completed her PhD this year. Her dissertation focused on pathology and trauma patterns visible on the cadaver-derived skeletons in the Kirsten Skeletal Collection. These skeletons represent people that mainly lived in the Western Cape during the 20th century. Dr Alblas outlined comparisons of trauma and conditions (cancer, degenerative diseases and metabolic conditions) and signs of infections, malnutrition and anaemia between specific timeframes in history (Second World War, the Great Depression, during and after apartheid, and before and after antibiotics became available).



Dr Alblas is currently involved in the Bakeng se Afrika Project, partnered by the EU and six Higher Education Institutions (HEI) in South Africa and Europe. The partners were successfully awarded €999 850 from the Erasmus+ Programme. The objective of this project is to develop and manage a comprehensive digital imaging collection of South Africans as a capacity building resource for improvement in internationalization of HEI's. The Kirsten skeletal collection will be one of three cadaver-derived skeletal collections in South Africa (the other collections are housed at Sefako Makgatho (SMU) and University of Pretoria (UP)) that will be scanned by various radiological modalities for this project. The data will be uploaded

online for dissemination, not only to partner Universities, but also other national and international research groups following adequate ethical approval of research and author/institution permission.

In April this year, Dr Alblas was invited by the University of Oulu in Finland to start collaboration in a virtual histology project intended for teaching of histology to medicine and allied health students. The initiative is also extended to the medical school at the University of Namibia. Dr Alblas, accompanied by Prof Piet Hoogland, spent time with Prof Petri Lehenkari and Dr Sanna Turunen in Oulu, to incorporate QuPath software in virtual histology training using slides already known to the students.



Dr Sanna Turunen demonstrating the training methods used at University of Oulu.

Ms Lauren Sahd attended the 12th International Congress of Vertebrate Morphology (ICVM) in Prague during 21-25 July 2019.

The most important aspect of the conference was that many study groups now only work with micro-computed tomography (Micro-CT) scan of specimens,

specifically the skeleton of various species and then map geometric morphometric landmarks onto the bone to discern shape, size as well as other variables and compare taxa this way. Furthermore, it provided Ms Sahd with a different perspective on how Morphological Sciences can be applied in different areas. For example several talks from various countries including the United States of America (USA) focused on how Anatomy are being used to improve robotics and engineering. Additionally, one talk by Mark Wright, Harvard University, USA, validated and helped improve Ms Sahd's methodology for one of the aspects of her PhD project. She further learned that data science and statistics using R as well as computer modelling, are becoming of vital importance in the integrative biology research field. The next ICVM will take place in Caines, Australia in 2022.



Ms Lauren Sahd prior to her presentation at the conference

Prof Sanet Kotzé and Dr Kerri Keet

University of Johannesburg: Department of Human Anatomy and Physiology (HAP)

It has been a bitter-sweet year for UJ's Department of Human Anatomy and Physiology. Dr. Bianca Thomas is our new HoD, as we bid farewell to our former HoD, Dr. Elaine Swanepoel who relocated this May. Dr. Swanepoel's value to our department is immeasurable and we wish her well on her future endeavours. The baton has been passed on to Dr. Thomas who will pave the way for the department's next chapter. On a sweeter note, Pilani Nkomozepe graduated with his PhD in Anatomical Sciences from the University of Witwatersrand, with a focus on Neuroanatomy – we are extremely proud of him!

HAP is proud to report that all Anatomy staff members attended the 47th Annual Conference of the Anatomical Society of Southern Africa this April. The SV Naidoo best poster award was won by Ms. Sundika Ishwarkumar at this conference for her presentation on the morphometry and morphology of the acetabulum. Dr. Erna Bruwer was invited as a keynote speaker at the Ann Latsky Nursing conference in June. She presented a motivational talk entitled: "When small things make a huge difference". In 2019, HAP was also represented on the international stage. Prof. Shahed Nalla jet-set to London. He attended the 19th Congress of the

International Federation of Associations of Anatomists in August.

year. Mr. Nkosana Ngwenya became a proud father and Mrs. Asma Shaikh-Kader a mother to her second baby boy.

HAP is also proud to welcome Mr. Imraan Patel to the department. He joined the department in a full-time capacity this year and we look forward to his contribution. Our “HAP-family” is always expanding; we welcomed the arrival of two “little men” this

Dr Sundika Ishwarkumar



University of Cape Town: Department of Human Biology

Academic achievement :

Dr. Devin Finaughty obtained his PhD in Biological Anthropology on January 8, 2019 and graduated on 12 July 2019. A culmination of 6 years' worth of work, Devin's thesis presented the first baseline data on soft-tissue decomposition in the Western Cape. In addition, he established the first occurrence matrices for forensically significant insects in the Western Cape and identified the Cape grey mongoose (*Galerella pulverulenta*) as a significant scavenger of carrion. One of the most interesting findings was that of precocious natural mummification (complete mummification of remains in less than 30 days). This process was, until now, known to be exceedingly rare in temperate climates such as that in which Cape Town is located. Devin's thesis reports five instances of precocious mummification in summer seasons and proposes a mechanism driving this process in the Cape's unique environment. The findings have recently been accepted for publication in *Forensic Science International*.

Tafadzwa Tawha completed her MPhil in Biomedical Forensic Science with distinction and is awaiting graduation in December 2019. Her masters research was entitled "Assessing zygomatic shape and size for ancestry estimation in a South African sample." There is a need to find reliable and relevant ancestry estimation methods tailored for population groups, particularly in unique admixed population

groups in South Africa. Advancements such as geometric morphometrics aid in assessing shape and size variation in particularly irregular shaped bones that complicate shape and size assessments using traditional methods. The findings suggested that the isolated zygoma in terms of shape was ancestrally variant, whilst size was sexually variant. The zygoma could reliably distinguish European from non-European South Africans. Males had larger zygoma size compared to women. This research aids in improving our methods in ancestry estimation.

Dr. Gibbon's research team: 2019 update

Dr. Victoria Gibbon and her research group are conducting research in forensic identification, forensic taphonomy, bioarchaeology, and anthropological genetics. Currently her students have six publications under review in international journals. Chandra Finaughty and Elizabeth Dinkele have presented their research at conferences this year. Elizabeth Dinkele, Maximilian Spies, Tafadzwa Tawha and Athi Baliso will be presenting at the Faculty of Health Sciences Research Day. The team has been involved in outreach activities like the annual Forensic Science Day, where top achieving high school learners from the Western Cape Province are invited to UCT for exposure in the Forensic Sciences. During this day, Dr Gibbon's team run a seminar on Forensic Anthropology.



Dr. Gibbon's research group on Forensic Sciences Day. Front row middle: Dr Victoria Gibbon. Second row left to right: Athi Baliso (MSc candidate), Elizabeth Dinkele (PhD candidate), Kimberley Cameron (Honours), Sadiyah Malek (Honours). Third row left to right: Zaarhirah Ismail (Honours), Nadine Kocerhan (MSc candidate), Tafadzwa Tawha (MPhil), Imameleng Mangoela (Honours), Claire du Toit (Honours), Liesl Arendse (PhD candidate). Back row: Maxilian Spies (PhD candidate).

An update on the restitution of the individuals to Sutherland: The public consultation process is complete, and the reburial is aimed before the end of this year. The community driven scientific research will be released to the public in 2020 along with phase 2, which includes a memorial in Sutherland celebrating the rich Khoisan history in the region.

New staff member joining the Clinical Anatomy and Biological Anthropology (CABA) division

Dr. Adhil Bagwandin joined the CABA towards the end of 2018 as Senior Lecturer with specialised training in neuroscience. For more information follow this link: <http://www.anatomybioanth.uct.ac.za/adhil-bhagwandin>



Dr. Adhil Bagwandin

Associate Professor Delva Shamley returns to CABA and will take on the role of Head of Division from the beginning of 2020. For more information follow this link: <http://www.anatomybioanth.uct.ac.za/prof-delva-shamley>



Associate Professor Delva Shamley

Conference attendance Neuroscience 2018

Marlie Greef attended the Neuroscience conference in San Diego, October 2018 and presented a poster entitled: The morphology of the intraparietal sulcus in children prenatally exposed to alcohol and association with number processing.

“If you love the brain and have a keen interest in neuroanatomy then you have a multitude of international conferences to choose from. Having previously attended the Human Brain Mapping Annual Meeting, I found that the Society of Neuroscience (SFN) a much better fit for an anatomist (<https://www.sfn.org/>). Although SFN includes a lot of talks on the cellular level of the brain and animal research, it does offer the chance for anatomist all over the world to showcase their research. I attended their annual meeting in October 2018 in San Diego, CA.” said Miss Marlie Greef.

“If you have been to Cape Town, you have experienced the climate of San Diego, the only difference is the size of food! The conference was held in the beautifully located convention centre with more than 30 000 neuroscientists attending! If anyone has been to a big international conference, you know the feeling of insignificance between so many smart people... however, you do realise that your research adds a lot even if it is a small part of something big. I presented a poster that forms part of my PhD thesis work.

Marlie would strongly recommend this conference to neuroanatomy researchers because of the need of more representation of passionate anatomists internationally.

The 47th Annual conference of the Anatomical Society of Southern Africa

Three members of academic staff came all the way from Cape Town representing the University of Cape Town (UCT) at the 47th annual ASSA conference. They all participated in the talks, oral and workshops, to judging and chairing of the sessions. Miss Kentse Mpolokeng was amongst the winners as the 1st runner up of Hanno-Boon Award in the Medical Education session, oral presentation that she gave. Mr. Leonard Shapiro, a member of staff at UCT was running a workshop in the anatomy interest focus group (AIFG): Body painting in Anatomy Education, and facilitating the session with Dr. Geney Gunston and Prof. Louw.



Top left: Dr. Geney Gunston, Ms Kentse Mpolokeng and Prof. Graham Louw. Top right: Ms Kentse Mpolokeng giving a talk in the Medical Education slot. Bottom Left: Prof. Graham Louw, Mr. Leonard Shapiro and Dr. Geney Gunston. Bottom right: Mr. Leonard Shapiro presenting the work that was done at UCT with students.

IFAA 2019

Three members of the academic staff from UCT attended the IFAA 2019 which was held in 9-11 August 2019, Excel, London, and participated in the conference events and presented in poster sessions. Three posters for Ms Mpolokeng were accepted: “An intra-orbital study of the human orbit showing a single ethmoidal foramen for the transport of the neurovascular structures - a rare case”, “Access to human cadaver

material by an international researcher from an institution that does not use cadavers in their medical training” and “The use of human tissue as a way to enhance classroom learning: an inter-university collaboration.” Two posters for Dr. Geney Gunston were accepted: “Medical student and trainee authored publications in anatomical education research studies”



Top left: Dr Geney Gunston with her poster at the IFAA conference. Top right: Ms Kentse Mpolokeng with her poster. Bottom: Dr Geney Gunston, Ms Kentse Mpolokeng and Dr Jacqui Friedling at the opening ceremony of the IFAA conference in London 2019

European Association for Forensic Entomology

In September 2019, Devin and Chandra Finaughty undertook academic travel to Europe. They spent the first week of September in the medieval town of Toruń in northern Poland where Devin attended a forensic entomology workshop co-hosted by the Nicolaus Copernicus University and the European Association for Forensic Entomology. The following week was spent in Prague, Czech Republic, with Chandra attending the 28th Congress of the International Society for Forensic Genetics. Here, she presented a poster on her Master's research into DNA recovery from remains exposed to harsh marine environments. She also attended workshops on mitochondrial DNA databasing and phenotypic DNA profiling.



Left: Seven-nationality group at the Identification Workshop for Forensically-important Diptera co-hosted by the Nicolaus Copernicus University and the European Association for Forensic Entomology. Hosts Prof. dr. hab. Krzysztof Szpila and Dr. Andrzej Grzywacz flank left and right. Dr. Devin Finaughty right-hand side of back row. Right: Chandra Finaughty presents her poster at IGFS 2019.

Retirements:



Professor Graham Louw

Professor Graham Louw originally qualified as a veterinarian (BVSc) at the University of Pretoria, where he later taught the comparative anatomy of domestic animals while completing his doctoral degree (DVSc) in developmental neuro-embryology. He then returned to Cape Town to join the Faculty of Health Sciences as a senior lecturer and currently holds the position of Full Professor and Head of the Division of Clinical Anatomy and Biological Anthropology in the Department of Human Biology at UCT. He has been teaching human anatomy, embryology and neurosciences for more than two decades. He holds a Distinguished Teacher's Award from UCT and a Master's in Philosophy (MPhil) in Higher Education Studies through the Faculty of Humanities. He has been Chair of the Animal Research Ethics Committee of the Faculty of Health Sciences and has served two terms as President of the Anatomical Society of Southern Africa (ASSA). He is one of the regional editors of the *Clinical Anatomy*, the

Journal of the American Association of Clinical Anatomists.

He has been a member of ASSA since 1980 and served as Honorary Treasurer in the late 1980's and early 1990's, and again from 2014 onwards. He was Chairperson of the local Organising Committee for the international meeting of the International Federation of the Associations of Anatomists (IFAA) in Cape Town in 2009 and 2017. Regarding Medical Education at UCT, he was one of the key figures in revising the traditional medical training of students and launching the PBL curriculum in 2002. He serves as Co-chair of the MBChB Programme committee, mainly overseeing Years 1-3 of the programme. The groups of undergraduate and postgraduate students whom he teaches include the Medical students in various years of study, students studying a BSc in Physiology, BScMed, Biokinetics students, Biomedical Engineers, Honours in Applied Anatomy / Biological Anthropology, and Sports Medicine.

His research interests range from comparative anatomy to growth and development of school children to adult (tertiary) education, particularly regarding assessment practices. He has numerous publications in international and local journals and books. His cohort of postgraduate students reflect his interests in clinical and applied Anatomy, as well as in Medical Education. He actively promotes UCT's body donation programme and oversees the student-driven annual ceremony to honour those who donate their bodies to the Faculty of Health Sciences.



Dr Charles Slater

Dr Charles P. Slater qualified MBChB at UCT and later specialised in radiation oncology. His primary clinical interest has been in palliative care. He has a special interest in medical education, graduating with a Master in Higher Education Studies, with distinction. He has used his clinical, anatomical and educational knowledge to enhance the learning experience of students in the department of Human Biology.

He has taught students from the 5 undergraduate degree programmes offered by the health sciences faculty – audiology, speech language pathology, occupational therapy, physiotherapy and medicine - and has been a course convenor in the Integrated Health Systems course of the 2nd year MBChB programme. He received the Distinguished Teacher Award - the highest accolade awarded to teaching staff - in acknowledgement of his teaching philosophy and pedagogical approach in the context of the teaching and learning challenges in South African higher education, contribution to curriculum renewal, transformation and innovation in teaching and learning, the scholarship of

teaching, a positive impact on the teaching and learning approaches of his colleagues, and a lasting positive impact on his students, both within and beyond formal teaching time.



Mr. Deon Abrahams

Mr. Deon Abrahams will be retiring as Technical Officer in December 2019 from UCT's Division of Clinical Anatomy and Biological Anthropology after nearly 40 years' service. Professor EN Keene was HOD at the time of his appointment and he has since looked after 10 000+ anatomy students, countless teaching staff and thousands of practicals. Deon's role has not been limited to cadaver preparation and providing cadaveric specimens for teaching and practicals. He and his colleagues have also worked hard in setting up the required material for complex surgical workshops of international standard. Deon knows each specimen and what is available. He has also gone out of his way to accommodate students who have wanted to study after hours, especially near exam time, and he has put up with the vagaries of many staff, but always making sure that all is in order. His technical colleagues and fellow academic staff speak highly of Deon's reliability, his willingness to assist and generally solve problems, with good

humour. It is with mixed emotions that we see Deon leave: sadness at the gap he will be leaving with all his knowledge, but also with happiness as we see him enter a retirement that has been well earned through years of dedication and service.



Associate Professor Liz van der Merwe

Liz is a born and bred Capetonian and started her studies and career in medical technology in the Chemical Pathology laboratories at Karl Bremmer and Tygerberg Hospitals. After being transferred to Red Cross Hospital she continued her studies and in 1976 she graduated with a MTech in Clinical Pathology, specialising further in medical microbiology and histopathological techniques. It was there that Liz discovered her passion for understanding functional anatomy (and microanatomy) through histology, electron microscopy and nuclear imaging. Having been captured by the research bug, Liz took up a post as research technologist at the Electron Microscope Unit /Experimental Biology Unit at the SA Medical Research Council. It was while working at the MRC that she went on to obtain Honours and MSc (Med) degrees in Cell Biology at UCT, working largely on problems related to diabetes and pancreatic cell differentiation. Then in 2000, Liz was appointed as a histology lecturer in the Department of Human

Biology, concurrently working on her PhD. She carried out exquisite and detailed work on the embryonic development of the vasculature of the aqueous pathway in the mouse eye, a project few investigators would have been able to tackle. It was a real tour de force.

As a member of staff at UCT, Liz has been the quintessential academic, dedicating herself to research and teaching, while also serving the faculty more broadly. Liz took a great interest in undergraduate teaching and was one of the core members of the MBChB curriculum design group and has remained as one of its leaders throughout her tenure at UCT. Amongst her many innovations, she developed an e-system where students can view slide collections online via the virtual microscope and has brought many changes to the teaching of functional histology and pathology. She continues to pursue her interest in regenerative medicine with particular interest in the mechanisms that underlie the vasculature and innervation of regenerating pancreatic islets and the early pathophysiology of diabetic retinopathy. She publishes regularly and has supervised postgraduate students and undergraduate projects with enthusiasm and care. Liz has also managed to find time to contribute widely to the university and scientific communities and to the public, while at the same time being a wife, a mother and a hobbyist of note. Liz has served as an editor and reviewer for a number of journals and on a wide range of committees, has been a Council member of ASSA, has been Honorary Editor of Proceedings for many years, and has helped organise conferences and workshops. She has served for many years on the Animal Ethics committee at UCT and has been a strong supporter of women in science; she served as a committee

member and then as chair of the Association of South African Women in Science (SAWISE). She has also been involved in several local outreach and mentorship programmes, visiting schools in the western Cape giving career guidance talks. Her promotions to Senior Lecturer

and then to Associate Professor was a fitting recognition of her dedication and contribution to education and to academe.

**Dr Victoria Gibbon and
Ms Kentse Mpolokeng**

University of the Free State: Department of Basic Medical Sciences

Forensic Workshops

The Department again hosted the annual two-part workshop for second year Forensic Science students in April and May of this year. During the first session, Ms Tshegofatso Ramphaleng guided students through basic human osteology, followed by a practical session with exciting challenges such as sketching bones and sorting different bones into labelled boxes. The second session, presented by Dr Petra Maass, gave students practical tips to dealing with bones in a forensic or archaeological context. The final practical session allowed students to apply their obtained skills in solving several “real” forensic anthropology cases through interpreting a crime scene and the evidence at the scene. Popularity of the workshop has grown so much that our departmental colleagues from anatomy and physiology – Dr Jenelle Govender, Ms Shivani Govender and Ms Shannal Pillay – also participated in this year’s workshop.



Ms Tshegofatso Ramphaleng briefing students before “walking the grid”.



Postgraduate student, Ms Luyanda Malangeni, helping students differentiate between human and animal bones.



Dr Petra Maass explaining the use of excavation tools to students.



Ms Shannal Pillay helping students sort bones into boxes.

Clinical Workshops

In November 2018, the Department of Basic Medical Sciences along with specialists from the UFS Department of Otorhinolaryngology hosted the annual “temporal bone workshop”. This week-long course saw 15 participants work through a series of advanced surgical techniques using state of the art equipment under guidance of both local and international experts.

The Department also hosted the Teleflex EZ-IO (interosseous) workshop in August of this year. The workshop was used to demonstrate a new procedure for the administration of emergency fluid directly into the proximal humerus or anterior tibia of a patient. Over the two days, the technique was demonstrated to several groups of participants, including anaesthetists, ambulance workers and emergency care doctors from the Free State and Northern Cape.



Dissection hall facilities ready for the temporal bone workshop.



Participants at the EZ-IO workshop awaiting demonstration of the technique.

2019 UFS Open Day

The annual UFS Open Day was held on 11 May this year, with the Department of Basic Medical Sciences again attracting a lot of attention from prospective students. The Department was represented at both the Faculty of Health Sciences and Faculty of Natural and Agricultural Sciences exhibits. The anatomy and anthropology stall was

managed by Dr Petra Maass and two postgraduate students, Ms Luyanda Malangeni and Ms Amanda Smal. While aimed at providing visiting high school pupils with information about the available courses, much of the day was also spent sharing interesting facts about the human body (both living and dead) with the pupils and their accompanying family members.



Postgraduate students, Amanda Smal and Luyanda Malangeni, and Dr Petra Maass ready to meet prospective students at the 2019 UFS Open Day.



High school pupils attentively listening to descriptions of available Anatomy courses at the UFS.

Conference & Faculty Research Forum attendance

Recent Master's graduate, Dr Arnelle Mostert, presented several aspects of her research at various occasions this year. At the 12th South African Association of Health Educationalists (SAAHE) Conference hosted by the University of the Free State, Dr Mostert was challenged to present her topic entitled "*Quality of life and academic performance of first-year health science students*" in the Pechu Kucha format – using a presentation consisting of 20 slides which automatically advance to the next after 20 seconds! Dr Mostert also gave an oral presentation at the 51st Faculty Research Forum, hosted by the Faculty of Health Sciences (UFS), where she won the prize for Best Educational Paper – Junior Category.

Dr Sanet van Zyl also gave an oral presentation at the Faculty Research Forum. As part of the presentation entitled "*Multiple risk factors and inflammatory markers for chronic diseases of lifestyle in urban and rural communities in the Free State*", Dr Van Zyl highlighted some of the key findings of her collaborative research with colleagues from the Departments of Nutrition and Dietetics and Biostatistics.

The Department was well represented at the 47th Annual Conference of the Anatomical Society of Southern Africa (ASSA), hosted in the Pilanesberg. Dr Carina Vorster and Ms Shivani Govender gave an oral presentation on "*The potential harmful effects of exposure to embalmed cadavers on first-year medical students at the University of the Free State*", while Ms Tshogofatso Ramphaleng gave an oral presentation on "*The face mask collection: the face forms of the living and the dead*".

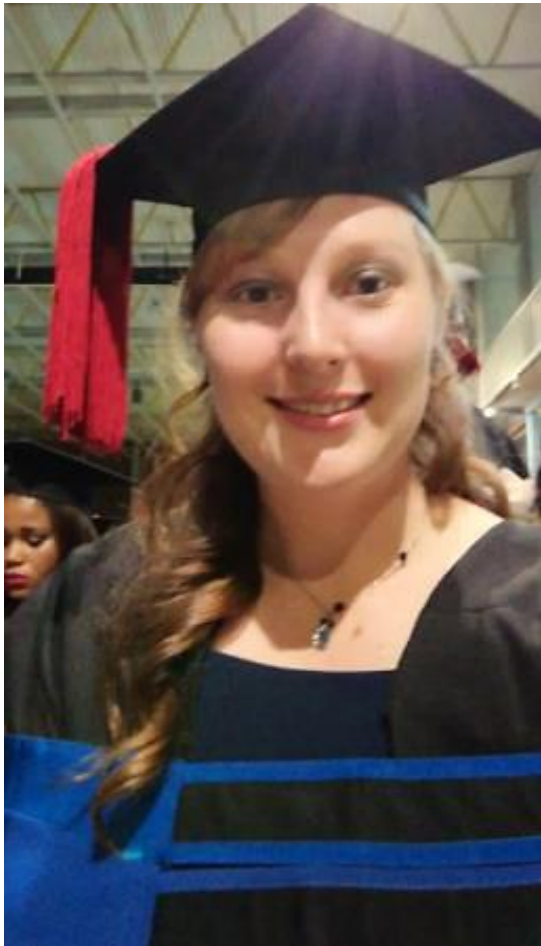
Degrees conferred

Dr Arnelle Mostert received her Magister in Health Professions Education (MHPProfEdu) degree for her study "*The quality of life of University of the Free State first-year Health Sciences Students*". She is already working on her next research topic, which aims to expand her Master's work to other student groups at the university.



Dr Arnelle Mostert during her MHPProfEdu graduation ceremony.

Ms Amanda Smal received her BMedSc Honours degree in Anatomy and Cell Morphology in April for her work on “*Osteometric assessment of the sexual dimorphism of the glenohumeral joint*”, under the supervision of Dr Petra Maass. She is currently expanding on this research as part of her MMedSc degree.



Postgraduate student, Ms Amanda Smal, ready to receive her BMedSc Honours degree at graduation.

Sharing the dissection hall experience

On the 15th of May, second-year MBChB students who had completed their dissection module in the Department took part in the Cadaver Case Study Presentations. In groups of 6-8 students, each of the 27 dissections group had to give an oral presentation to their peers, providing a description and researched background on an anatomical abnormality or variation or interesting pathology that they observed on the cadaver they had been dissecting over the past 10 months. Topics presented ranged from lymphomas to patent ductus arteriosus to accessory lobes of the liver, making the work of the adjudicators – Drs Henk Potgieter and Petra Maass and Mr Gerhard van Zyl – very difficult. In the end, the presentation on inguinal lymphadenopathy, which was presented like a live television news report, stole the show, and the group were named the clear winners of the day.

In June, Drs Mada Ferreira and Petra Maass were responsible for the production of a short video based on interviews with second-year medical students. The video features several students describing their dissection hall experiences and providing future students with advice on how to approach the daunting task of full body dissection.



Second-year MBChB students ready to present interesting variations or pathologies observed during dissection.



Second-year MBChB students shared their dissection hall experiences in a short video, describing the process and giving advice to future classes.

Mental Health Awareness

Members of the Department participated in the Crazy Socks for Docs Day on 7 June by wearing some silly and playful socks to work. The initiative aims at raising awareness and support for health professionals dealing with mental health issues.

Dr Sanet van Zyl and Dr Petra Maass



Staff members Jenelle Govender, Simone Gordon, Arnelle Mostert, Annelize Vorster, Petra Maass and Yolani Benadé wearing their colourful and silly socks for mental health awareness.

Sefako Makgatho Health Sciences University: Department of Anatomy

Bakeng se Afrika is an Erasmus plus project which aims to develop and manage a comprehensive digital repository of virtual data of South African human skeletons, accessible from all around the world.

This project will impact teaching in higher educational institutions and research in forensic science, healthcare, anthropology, palaeoanthropology and business, such as dental implant companies (<https://www.up.ac.za/bakeng-se-afrika>).

The following projects involving staff members from the Sefako Makgatho Health Sciences University are supported by the Bakeng se Afrika project.

Micro-XCT scanning of human odonto-skeletal remains of the Human Bone Collection housed at SMU

By the means of high resolution micro-XCT scanning, 60 skulls and their associated radius and femora from the Human Bone Collection housed at the Department of Anatomy and Histology of the Sefako Makgatho Health Sciences University (SMU) are currently being scanned at the South African Nuclear Energy Corporation (Necsa), Pelindaba. The aim of this project is to create a virtual database of micro-XCT scans of the Human Bone Collection' remains, accessible at SMU and internationally through *Bakeng se Afrika*, for the study of the inner structure of odonto-skeletal elements and for pedagogic purposes.



A skull of the Human Bone Collection housed at the Department of Anatomy and Histology of the Sefako Makgatho Health Sciences University (left) and its μ XCT based 3D reconstruction, including the extraction of the right first molar (right).

Training sessions on the basic concepts of imaging softwares at UP and SMU

Prof Anna Oettlé (SMU, UP), Dr Alison Ridel (UP) and Dr Marine Cazenave (SMU) presented training courses at the Department of Anatomy and Histology of the Sefako Makgatho Health Sciences University (SMU) and at the Department of Anatomy of the University of Pretoria (UP) in April-June 2019. The training courses covered basic concepts of micro-XCT scanning and 3D imaging softwares as well as geometric morphometric analyses. Participants were mainly represented by honours, masters and PhD students from the two universities. These training sessions were conducted in the frame of *Bakeng se Afrika*.

Geometric morphometric research project development at the Catholic University of Leuven in Belgium

Three prospective PhD students employed at SMU had the opportunity to travel to the Catholic University of Leuven (KUL) in Belgium to develop their research projects using geometric morphometric analyses. Franci Swanepoel is working on the quantification of South African faces by means of geometric morphometrics. This study proposes to address the need for a directory of faces of South Africans that may be used as a guideline when faces

need to be reconstructed. This could then further lead to prediction models aiding in the design, (surgical or prosthetic) of missing parts of the face. To this purpose, it will be advantageous to quantify the faces of South Africans numerically. By utilising Geometric Morphometrics methods (GMM), shape variation of faces can be analysed and quantified. An atlas, or continuum of faces may so be created to be applicable in the fields of maxillofacial surgery, prosthodontics and maxillofacial prosthetics, among others. To develop her research protocol, she spent 4 weeks in KUL supported by Prof Vandermeulen and other computer scientists.

Soné van der Walt is preparing a protocol on the approximation of the eye in South Africans using cone beam computer tomography analyses and geometric morphometrics. She had the opportunity to spend a week in KUL to initiate her research protocol. Taurai Hungwe, Computer scientist at SMU spent 5 weeks at KUL and became more acquainted with various softwares and programming towards the development of a tool for facial approximations. This exchange of advance knowledge is also part of *Bakeng se Afrika*.

Marine Cazenave



Top: Marine Cazenave with the honours and masters students from the University of Pretoria, who participated to the imaging training sessions. Bottom left: Franci Swanepoel. Centre: Taurai Hungwe. Bottom right: Sone van der Walt.

University of Western Cape: Department of Medical Bioscience

Growing Anatomists

The BSc Medical Bioscience degree at the University of the Western Cape is a composite degree which comprises Anatomy, Physiology and Medical Microbiology specializations. The Department has over the years encouraged students to pursue interests in Anatomy with the realignment of the curriculum of the Specialist Module in Anatomical sciences which is offered to students at Honours level, with Dr. Sahar Abdul-Rasool as the course co-ordinator. This detailed year-long module involves lectures in Gross Anatomy, Embryology, Histology and a compulsory whole-body small-group dissection component, all of which have helped to improve the general Anatomy knowledge of our honours graduates and prepare them for postgraduate training.

Sibongile Lusizi is one of the students who have decided to follow the Anatomy specialization and completed an Honours degree within the Anatomy Cluster and is now registered for MSc degree. Like Sibongile, many third year students have shown interest in osteology and cadaveric anatomy research over the years and mini-projects involving dissections largely designed and supervised by Dr. Sahar Abdul-Rasool and Mr. Hitesh Harribhai. Buhle Madushana and Khanyisile Gija are some of the 3rd year students who have also opted to do their BSc mini-projects in Anatomy, investigating the osteological and osteometric relations in the basicranium supervised by Bridget Langa. Both students will hopefully continue with Honours level studies in Anatomy in 2020.



Ms. Bridget Langa, Mr. Hitesh Harribhai and Dr. Sahar Abdul-Rasool have consistently supervised BSc projects in cadaveric and applied Anatomy projects aimed at stimulating student research interests in Anatomy

Conference attendance



Prof. Okobi Ekpo attended the 14th Conference of the Society for Neuroscientists of Africa (SONA) in Lagos, Nigeria (24th – 28th March, 2019) as well as the 47th Annual ASSA Conference hosted by the University of Pretoria, at Kwa Maritane Bush Lodge (7th-10th of April, 2019)



Dr. Sahar Abdul-Rasool attended the 3rd International Medical Conference at the University of Sulaimani College of Medicine in Iraq, on the 4th -5th of April 2019 where she gave a presentation on “Keeping abreast of breast cancer Markers of early breast cancer metastasis”

New Appointments

Miss Thabisile Shabalala was appointed to the post of Senior Anatomy Officer and thus, the Anatomy Lab Manager earlier this year. In this capacity, she is responsible for managing and running the Anatomy lab within and also coordinates practical sessions for Dentistry, Medical Bioscience and Nursing students. She completed her undergraduate degree in Medical Science (Human Anatomy) at the University of KwaZulu Natal (UKZN) and undertook neuroscience research at MSc level and currently proposes to venture into Neuroanatomy research for her PhD. Prior to assuming this position, Thabi was an Anatomy Officer from July 2014.



Miss Thabisile Shabalala

Professor Tertius Kohn was recently appointed Associate Professor of Physiology in the Medical Bioscience Department “with a heart for Anatomy”. Until his appointment at UWC, Professor Kohn was a Senior Researcher at the Exercise Science and Sports Medicine Research Unit (ESSM) at the University of Cape Town. He is an experienced muscle tissue researcher, having worked extensively on different projects involving human (athletes) muscle function, meat quality as well as wildlife (lions, cheetahs, wildebeest and baboons) muscle research. Anatomists interested in muscle collaboration can visit his website (<http://www.myolab.co.za>).



Professor Tertius Kohn

Dr Okobi Ekpo

University of Kwazulu-Natal: School of Laboratory Medicine and Medical Sciences, Division of Clinical Anatomy

Academic Leaders in the School of Laboratory Medicine and Medical Sciences

Dr Pamela Pillay has been appointed as Academic Leader of Teaching and Learning and Dr Brenda de Gama as the Academic Leader Research at UKZN, College of Health Sciences.



Academic leaders

Graduation

Four Students graduated with their M Med Science in Anatomy in September 2019, Mr K Guambe, Ms N Ngubane, Ms R Khan (cum laude) and Ms J Luckraj.



Mr K Guambe, Ms N Ngubane, Ms R Khan (cum laude) and Ms J Luckraj

Ms Ntombifuthi Ngubane currently serving as a nGap Lecturer in the Department of Anatomy, graduated with her M Med Science in Anatomy. Her dissertation was entitled: "A Cadaveric Investigation of the Sphenoidal Air Sinus Anatomy" and was supervised by Professor Kapil S. Satyapal; Professor Lelika Lazarus, Dr. Carmen O. Rennie.



Ms Ntombifuthi Ngubane



Ms J Luckraj and Ms R Khan

Ms R Khan commenced her masters journey in July 2017 at the Department of Clinical Anatomy, Westville UKZN, which became her second home as she had previously completed both her undergraduate and honours degrees in this department. Due to the complexity of her research, she was exposed to different elements and walks of life. She spent parts of her master's journey with an orthopaedic surgeon and the staff at the department of Clinical Anatomy, both Westville and Medical School campuses. She was supervised by Prof KS Satyapal, Prof Lazarus and Prof Naidoo, who is based in Dubai. Subsequent to the submission of her project Ms Khan took up the opportunity to join Prof Naidoo in Dubai for two months as a research assistant. They worked closely on many projects and also collaborated with various departments. This experience was exhilarating and moulded her into a more confident and determined version of herself. Her masters journey ended with Spring graduation 2019 where she graduated with cum laude. Ms Khan is truly grateful to reach this point in her academic journey and is hoping the best for her PhD, which is her next goal. Ultimately, master's assisted her to develop into a mature professional individual and has given her the hope that much can be accomplished with determination, dedication, sacrifices and commitment.



Jeshika Luckrajh

Jeshika Luckrajh (22) has recently graduated with a Masters degree in Medical Science (Anatomy) following her research into the anatomy of the proximal anterior cerebral artery and its association with anterior communicating artery aneurysms. She began this degree in 2018 and was awarded a Masters Innovation Scholarship from the National Research Foundation to pursue her research. Her study investigated the anatomy of the arteries surrounding the aneurysm and any variations that could be a possible anatomical basis for the aneurysm formation. Two scientific papers have emanated from Jeshika's thesis, both of which were presented at the 19th Congress of the International Federation of the Associations of Anatomists in ExCel, London. Furthermore, one of these papers was presented at the 5th Annual Research Symposium of the School of Laboratory Medicine and Medical Sciences where Jeshika received the 2nd prize for the best poster presentation. Jeshika has received much valued support from her family, friends and supervisors (Dr Harrichandparsad, Prof Satyapal and Prof Lazarus) who helped her through this journey to obtain her Masters degree. She is eager to continue on the academic trajectory to reach her goal of becoming an academic within the Discipline of Clinical Anatomy.

Conferences:

IFAA 2019

The International Federation of Anatomists Association (IFAA) Congress held its 19th Congress in London from 9 to 11 August 2019. This congress had international anatomist representatives from around the world presenting stimulating research including prominent plenary speakers and a range of symposia in anatomical sciences. There were several interesting and debatable topics presented. Included in the programme was a mentorship symposium aimed at emergent anatomists who are actively trying to establish themselves as an anatomical sciences researcher, educationalist or advocate hosted by a team led by the IFAA President, Professor Beverley Kramer. Several members of staff and students from UKZN presented at this conference. Attendance and participation at this conference allowed Dr Pillay to engage socially with colleagues from around the world and form collaborative networks and partnerships. Conference attendees also had the opportunity to experience one of the most “iconic cities in the world”.



UKZN attendees at the IFAA congress in August

Dr Pam Pillay

UPCOMING EVENTS



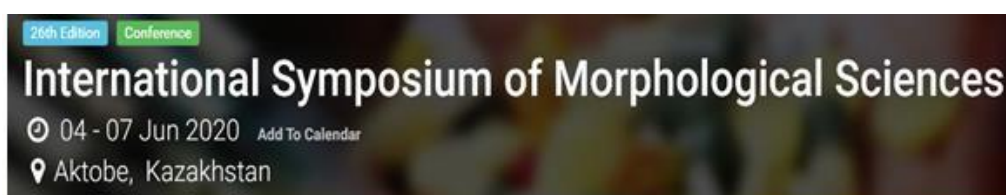
On behalf of the Local Organising Committee (UKZN & DUT), we are excited to announce our **FIRST CALL** for the ASSA 2020 Conference (19-22 April 2020). Please see attached documents for registration and abstract guidelines. If you require further information, you are welcome to contact me or assa@dut.ac.za.

Registration & Abstract submission OPEN TODAY!

Please use the **updated** link below for registration and the attached document has information for Abstract submission.

<https://forms.gle/UFoxJu3iDcP6eteb9> .

We look forward to seeing you in Durban in 2020!



GREETINGS FROM THE EDITOR

Incredible how time flies, another year nearly done and what an exciting year it has been. I would like to take this opportunity to thank my predecessor, Dr Desire Brits for her hard work in overseeing the ASSA newsletter! You have left very big shoes to fill! I would also like to thank everyone for your news contributions! The news presented is the news provided and as such without your contributions we would not have this platform.

I would like challenge everyone to embrace the spirit of World Anatomy Day and keep the news coming! I am very excited at the prospects of the ASSA conference in Durban and wish the organisers all the best for the April 2020 meeting.

Lastly I would like to wish all readers of this newsletter all the best for the festive season! May you take the time to enjoy the rest and recharge for 2020!

Best wishes



Erin Hutchinson