



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

**2020**

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## Message from the President of the Anatomical Society of Southern Africa



**Professor Albert van Schoor**

Greetings ASSA members,

One can hardly believe it is nearing the end of the academic year – and what a year it has been! Despite tremendous difficulties for both staff and students, we all seem to have persevered through sheer hard work and determination! I truly hope that you, as well as your family and friends all remain safe and I wish all the members both strength and patience for this final stretch.

Firstly, I would like to thank the ASSA Council for their support and hard work throughout the year – I would especially like to thank Erin for all her hard work in preparing this edition of the ASSA newsletter for the enjoyment of our readers. Despite the postponement of the ASSA 2020 Congress, I still would like to thank Julian, Lelika, and the local organizing committee of the Durban Institute of Technology, as well as the

University of KwaZulu Natal for the hard work that went into the congress prior to the national lockdown. I would also want to thank them for the efforts in postponing the congress until 2021. Their hard work has not gone unnoticed and the Society appreciates it!

From this setback however, we were able to organize the first ever ASSA World Anatomy Day Virtual Symposium. On this virtual platform we gave our postgraduate students a platform to give a short presentation on the work that they will be presenting at next year's congress – an appetizer if you will. Carol also chaired a panel discussion on remote teaching over the lockdown period and the session was concluded with our Annual General Meeting. Judging from the comments I received, the entire session was well received and quite enjoyable. Perhaps something to consider for our Society's future World Anatomy Day celebrations?

On behalf of the ASSA Council, I would like to wish all the members – along with their friends and loved ones – a safe and restful December and a happy New Year. May 2021 be one of the greatest years ever.

**With best wishes, Albert van Schoor**

# IFAA Matters



**Professor Nalini Pather**

**Chair: IFAA, Federative International  
Program for Anatomical Education  
(FIPAE)**

The Federative International Program for Anatomical Education (FIPAE) would like to extend a vote of thanks for your support of the **Anatomy Education Symposium held on World Anatomy Day** that was held on 15 October 2020. The response to this initiative has been overwhelmingly positive with more than 1000 people in attendance on the day, and several proposals for future collaboration from anatomy societies. FIPAE welcome these ideas that will enable them to partner with you. Please email Professor Nalini Pather at any time to discuss more. FIPAE are excited for what the future holds and thank you.

## **World Anatomy Day Symposium**

**Recording:** A recording of this first IFAA Virtual Symposium can be accessed at <http://www.ifaa.net/education/>

## **Quality Qualitative Research in Anatomy: an introductory workshop**

This is a 'hands-on' facilitated training workshop on Qualitative Research Methodology that is being coordinated by the FIPAE.

## **The first Quality Qualitative Research in Anatomy: an introductory workshop**

**was held on 2 December 2020.** The workshop will be offered several times in the next few months. Dates for subsequent workshops will be confirmed in early 2021.

The workshop focussed on

- the basic principles underlying qualitative research, as well as provide an opportunity to try your hand at undertaking some steps involved with qualitative analysis.
- the purpose and motivation behind using qualitative methods and how they can help us research education
- paradigms, perspectives and world-views related to qualitative methods, and how these differ from quantitative perspectives

If you have any queries, please contact:

**Nalini Pather, E: [N.Pather@unsw.edu.au](mailto:N.Pather@unsw.edu.au)**

**Twitter: @NaliniPather**

**Terminology Matters:**  
**Regular Anatomical Terms (RAT) and their use in the IFAA terminologies**  
**IFAA Executive Board**

**This document serves to communicate a change in the use of terms in the IFAA terminologies to all anatomists within member associations of the IFAA.**

At a recent referendum the member associations of the International Federation of Associations of Anatomy (IFAA) voted to accept a form of terminology known as 'Regular Anatomical Terms (RAT)' as the primary anatomical terms in the IFAA terminologies. Some RAT differ in their word order from previously used Latin terms. The change to RAT was originally suggested to help the development of software tools to assist the IFAA member associations with the translation of the IFAA terminologies into vernacular languages, RAT have value in drawing up machine-readable versions of the IFAA terminologies.

Although RAT will now be the primary terms used in all IFAA terminologies, previously used traditional Latin terms will remain as the first synonyms. Thus, rigid application of the rules are not being recommended as **the ongoing use of Latin terms by anatomists is NOT precluded.**

**What are Regular Anatomical terms?**

As summarised from Fraher (FIPAT communication, 2017) and Neumann et al. (2017a):

“Regular Anatomical terms are an attempt to simplify Latin anatomical terms.

The following rules are applied to the RA terms:

- Each term will consist only of nouns and adjectives.
- Each term will only have one noun in nominative case
- The standard word order will have nouns following the noun they modify, and adjectives immediately following the noun they modify.
- Nouns in genitive case are generally preferable to adjectives when the modifier means “of” an entity, rather than “pertaining to” an entity.

- Alphanumeric determiners and names of Greek letters will follow the noun they limit or specify. However, Roman numerals and Latin letters are generally preferred in Latin terms.”

**Further deliberations on these rules can be sourced from:** Neumann, Baud and Sprumont (2017a, *Clin Anat* 30: 300-302), Neumann, Baud and Sprumont (2017b, *Clin Anat* 30: 700-702) and Neumann, Gest and Tubbs (2020, *Clin Anat* 33:327-331).

**How will the terms change in the IFAA terminologies?**

The recently approved (November 2020) Terminologia anatomica 2nd edition (TA2) has made use of RAT in its first column (i.e. the primary term).

Here are some examples of how the RA terms differ from the traditional Latin terms:

	<b>Traditional Latin</b>	<b>RAT (TA2)</b>
	M. abductor pollicis brevis	Abductor brevis pollicis
	M. flexor carpi ulnaris	Flexor ulnaris carpi
	M. adductor magnus	Adductor magnus
	M. flexor digitorum longus	Flexor longus digitorum
Example: In relation to the kidney or ren:	Extremita superior; polus superior	Polus superior renis
	Arteria cerebri anterior	Arteria anterior cerebri

For further information regarding the debate on the pros and cons of RAT, see the IFAA Website: [www.ifaa.net](http://www.ifaa.net)

# ASSA WORLD ANATOMY DAY VIRTUAL SYMPOSIUM

In celebration of World Anatomy Day on the 15<sup>th</sup> October, the Anatomical Society of Southern Africa held its first ever World Anatomy Day Virtual Symposium. The day long symposium kicked off with a “Women in Anatomy” session organized by Dr Pam Pillay (UKZN), showcasing the strength and resolve of the ladies of ASSA. Professor Desire Brits (Wits), Professor Lelika Lazarus (UKZN), Dr Tanya Augustine (Wits) and Dr Nkhensani Mogale (UP) all reflected on their journey thus far within the realm of academia as well as on what opportunities and challenges they have faced in their various roles as “Women in Anatomy”.

Subsequent to this inspirational session, scientists from the University of Oxford (UK), Khalifa University (UAE) and the various academic institutions associated with ASSA, all presented snippets of their current research. Research presented covered a wide array of topics including “An innovative online resource for learning radiology and anatomy” presented by Ms I Codwell and Ms S Khan (University of Oxford), “Scavenging taphonomy in the rural Lowveld and Highveld of South Africa” presented by Mr Craig Keyes (Wits) and “A

pilot study to refine techniques for investigating the effects of occupational whole-body vibration on the lumbar spine using an animal model” presented by Ms A König (UP) as a preview to her PhD work. The ideal of bringing the anatomy community together on world anatomy day was further highlighted by Mr JD van Tonder, who presented his work while located in the United Arab Emirates. Mr JD van Tonder, presented his research entitled: “Proximal tibial dimensions in a formalin-fixed neonatal sample when performing an intraosseous infusion” which is a collaborative endeavor between the University of Pretoria (UP) and Khalifa University (UAE).

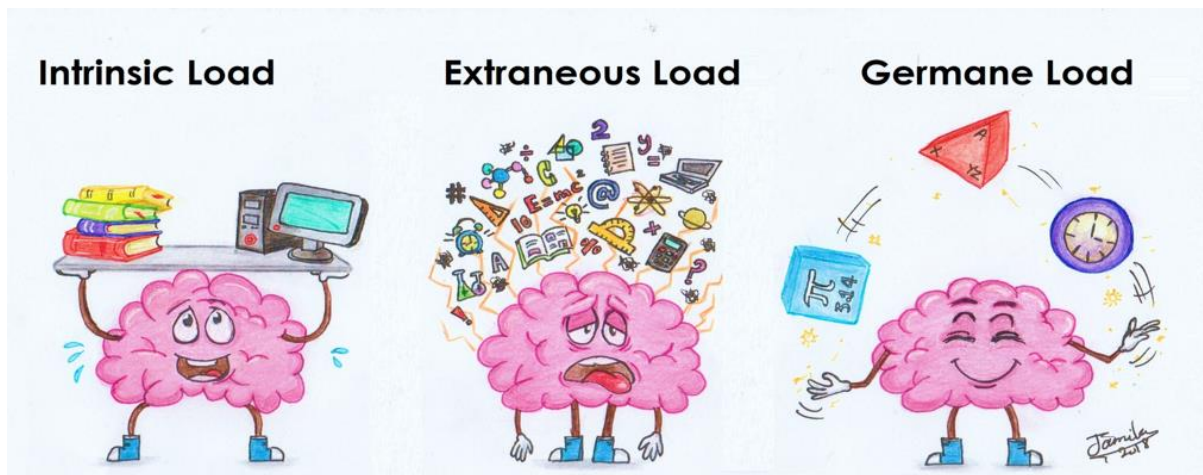
Hot on the heels of a morning showcasing the exciting research undertaken by ASSA members, Dr Carol Hartmann (Chair: ASSA Education Interest Group) facilitated an Anatomy Education session entitled: “Teaching anatomy using technology: Past experiences and future innovations”. The session provided a platform for enriching engagement around various issues faced by Anatomists globally, educational factors considered included: The ways technology has been used in the move to Emergency

Remote Online learning and ways going forward with this, the management of cognitive overload by both academics and learners as well as possible mechanisms around shrinking the cognitive load while embracing the benefits of the blended learning approach. Further information related to the ASSA Education Interest Group and its discussion forums is available at

<https://sites.google.com/view/assaeducati-onsig/home> or alternatively through the ASSA website ([www.anatomysa.co.za](http://www.anatomysa.co.za)) under the resources tab. All inputs are most welcome.

**Dr Erin Hutchinson**

**University of the Witwatersrand**



John Q. Young, Jeroen Van Merriënboer, Steve Durning & Olle Ten Cate (2014) Cognitive Load Theory: Implications for medical education: AMEE Guide No. 86, Medical Teacher, 36:5, 371-384, DOI: 10.3109/0142159X.2014.889290 Image:

<https://medium.com/feedzaitech/cognitive-load-101-f89468e0a4d8>

# Sefako Makgatho Health Sciences University: Department of Anatomy

## **World Anatomy Day at Sefako Makgatho Health Sciences University (SMU)**

The morning of the 15<sup>th</sup> of October, there was a buzz on campus, as the Department of Anatomy (SMU) celebrated their inaugural World Anatomy Day festivities. A colorful, fun-filled day that showcased different aspects of anatomy were enjoyed by all amidst COVID-19 protocols being followed.



***Students and staff enjoyed the refreshments served***

The celebratory day was kick-started by Dr Imraan Sardiwalla, a consultant in the Hepatobiliary unite (HPB) / Acute care surgery firm, that presented a well-attended Blackboard collaborate clinical lecture. The discussion was on their recently performed ground-breaking associated liver partition and portal vein ligation (ALPPS) surgery and the importance of the associated anatomy. Dr Sardiwalla and team members, under the guidance of Prof Koto, HOD of General Surgery at SMU and the HPB firm, performed the ALPPS surgery laparoscopically for the first time on the African continent.

Only ten surgical cases like these have been reported on world-wide. This associated liver partition and portal vein ligation for staged hepatectomy was successfully performed on a 72-year old male patient with advanced colon cancer at the Doctor George Mukhari Academic Hospital by the surgical team. This surgery, as well as a very interesting history on the applicable anatomy and general surgery was well explained by Dr Sardiwalla and enjoyed by all that listened to this informative clinical lecture.



Following the lecture, staff and students of the university, were guided by chalk-drawn images to the festivities on the library lawn. Firstly, the Jerusalema challenge performed by the Anatomy department staff and students which provided great entertainment. Even some of the SMU community members joined in on the fun.

Thereafter, anatomically related games were played amongst a sea of color. These included Wack-a-bone where artificial bone-clones were used to throw a ring around a bone. A complete set of artificial anatomically correct bone clones are housed within the library at SMU where students can utilize this study resource during their anatomical studies.

Anatomy 30-seconds was played amongst previous anatomy students, post-graduate students and of course the academic staff. Hearing different ways of explaining a variety of anatomical terms where indeed astounding and served for great laughs. Pop-the-balloon as well as pin-the-organ were stations greatly enjoyed by all. Needless to say, all the available prizes were quickly handed out to the attendees. The fun-filled day was also complimented with the assistance of SMU FM that provided additional entertainment and music.



***Members of the anatomy department ready to assist with the day's festivities***



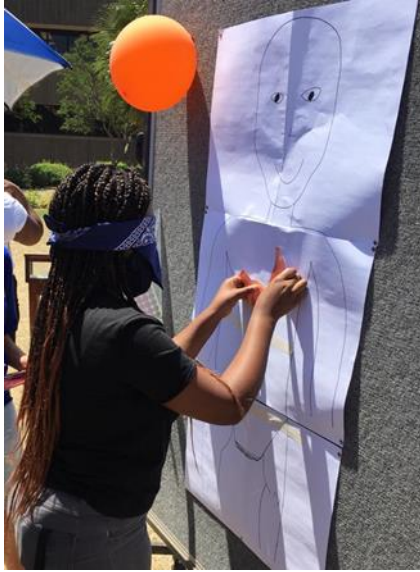
***Colorful artworks displayed a different side to anatomy***



*Members of the Anatomy department performing the Jerusalem challenge*



*Wack-a-bone being played by undergraduate students*



***A Student playing pin-the-organ***

The festivities were concluded with a tour of the anatomy museum. This was the first time where members of the university could guide this facility in the presence and with the assistance of anatomy staff members. Those that attend was fascinated by the splendor that is the human body.



***Anatomy 30-seconds being played by undergraduate and post-graduate students, as well as members of staff***

By exhibiting a “lighter” side to the dreaded anatomy, the SMU community learned about the importance of anatomy and how it is not only the “back-bone” of health sciences education, but also a vital functioning organ within the university structure.

**Lané Prigge  
SMU**

## University of the Free State: Department of Basic Medical Sciences

### **Departmental matters:**

Closing in on the end of the year, our department is proud of several staff members who have successfully completed their postgraduate degrees.

We wish to congratulate: Roné Vorster De Wet – PhD in Health Professions Education; Beynon Abrahams – PhD in Physiology; Tshogofatso Ramphaleng – PhD in Anthropology and Faith Moichela – MSc in Medical Sciences.

We were also fortunate to welcome several new members to our extended departmental family, with Dr Annelize Vorster getting married, and both Dr Carolynn van Der Merwe and Mr Martin Muller and their families welcoming baby boys!

Online staff Health and Wellness programmes and initiatives were presented during the lockdown period. With the easing of national restrictions towards the end of October, a small group of staff from the department were able to enjoy a picnic-style breakfast and just spend a little social time together to reconnect after working away from each other.



*Staff enjoying a distanced get-together at the departmental breakfast in October*

## Teaching and learning

With the restrictions associated with the national COVID restrictions this year, much of the staff and students of our department were scattered to the winds. We did, however, not let this stop us, using the opportunity to try new ways of teaching and learning and interacting with our students. During the lockdown period, Drs Mada Ferreira and Petra Maass compiled a video message from our department to all of our students. Staff provided great input not only in virtually meeting around a fireplace via Zoom, but also in sharing photos of their lockdown activities with family and pets to accompany our message.

Once students and staff were allowed to begin returning to campus, strict protocols and guidelines were developed and implemented to adhere to COVID safety measures and to ensure the health and safety of staff members and students as far as possible. Staff members worked hard in all the different modules offered in the department to develop blended teaching approaches and create accessible and user friendly online environments. A mix of asynchronous and synchronous blended learning and teaching approaches were followed to complete all course work.



*Screenshot of our staff's message to all students during lockdown.*



*Practical and assessment sessions presented for medical students during the lock down period.*



*Small group session in the Anatomy Museum for the Occupational therapy-, Physiotherapy- and Biokinetics students.*

### **Conferences/webinars attended**

One of the great opportunities presented by global restrictions associated with the COVID-19 pandemic was the shift towards free online conferences and webinars. A wide variety of anatomy-related sessions were attended by our staff and students. The ASSA World Anatomy Day Virtual Symposium was very popular in the department, drawing not only anatomy staff (Dr Maass, Ms Govender), but also our postgraduate students and some of the physiology staff (Ms Benade). All were there to support one of our postgraduate students, Ms Amanda Smal, who presented a “teaser” of the results of her Masters research study. Dr Maass and Ms Govender also attended both the 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Face Science Symposium hosted

online by the collaborative efforts of UCT, SUN, UWC and SAPS, and the 2020 Virtual Poster Conference hosted by the British Association for Anthropology.

A number of staff members will attend the South Africa Sweden University Forum (SASUF) symposium takes the form of a virtual event this year. The workshop will focus on a planned birth cohort study, Future Impact Today (FIT) study that is an interdisciplinary study in the Faculty of Health Sciences.

### **Research equipment**

As part of an interdisciplinary research initiative a state of the art histology laboratory was established in the department during 2020. The first PhD

students in Medical Physics and Virology are already utilizing the new facility, working for example on intestinal stem cell research.

### **Workshops hosted**

The department again hosted our popular workshops with students from the forensic science programme. We were able to host the first session “An introduction to human osteology” face-to-face before the national lockdown started. Under the guidance of Ms Tshogfatso Ramphaleng, Dr Petra Maass, Ms Shivani Govender and our anatomy postgraduate students, participants completed several tasks involving the identification of different bones, sketching characteristic features of bones, and competing to ask the demonstrators “gross” forensic questions. The session ended with Ms Govender leading a very interesting forensic anatomy discussion with the students, which proved that “I know this is a strange question, but...” may be one of the most used and underestimated phrases in anatomy education.

Unfortunately, the planned second session on “Forensic archaeology and practice” could not be done face-to-face, but Dr

Maass managed to have a very interactive online session with the students to discuss forensic archaeology legislation, excavation techniques and site interpretation. Students were then challenged to complete an online exercise to “solve” some of the cases from Dr Maass’ own real forensic case files.

### **Community**

Various initiatives in the faculty focussed on students’ physical and mental wellbeing, for example, a 5 X 5km virtual run was launched in October in support of mental health awareness month, guided stress release and yoga sessions, and a photography competition to name just a few.

Despite being apart during the national lockdown period, staff in the department still showed our solidarity with the Crazy Socks for Docs initiative to raise awareness and support for health professionals dealing with mental health issues, especially during this stressful time. From all corners of the country where staff found themselves, photos of their feet in funky winter socks were shared on social media to share the message.





Staff and students participating in the Introduction to Human Osteology workshop.



## Department of Basic Medical Sciences

### Supports **“Crazy Socks for Docs”** Day














UNIVERSITY OF THE  
FREE STATE  
UNIVERSITEIT VAN DIE  
VRYSTAAT  
YUNIVESITHI YA  
FREISTATA



**UFS**  
HEALTH SCIENCES  
SCHOOL OF BIOMEDICAL SCIENCES  
BASIC MEDICAL SCIENCES

# University of the Witwatersrand: School of Anatomical Sciences

The year 2020 has been a very difficult year, yet amidst the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic staff and students from the School of Anatomical Sciences prevailed.

## **Graduations**

Three members of staff obtained their PhD's in 2020 and we wish to congratulate Dr Anja Meyer, Dr Diana Pillay and Dr Kutlwano Xulu on this amazing achievement.

## **Retirements**

Mrs Hesk retires this year from her role as a Senior Secretary in the School of Anatomical Science. Jenny has served the University of the Witwatersrand over the past 25 years as a member of the Professional Administrative Staff (PAS). She first started her career in November 1995 as a faculty assistant and then three years later as a faculty office in the Faculty of Science. Jenny joined the Faculty of Health Sciences in 2001 as a senior admin secretary to Professor Ugo Ripamonti in the Bone Research Unit of the School of Clinical Medicine. In January 2010, Mrs Hesk was transferred to the Assistant

Dean's office in the Faculty of Health Sciences where she served as a personal assistant to Professor Meryll Vorster. Jenny joined the School of Anatomical Sciences in April 2012 in the capacity of Senior Secretary, a position which she has held until her retirement. Jenny has formed an integral part of the School of Anatomical Sciences and she will be missed! We wish her everything of the very best for the future!



***Mrs Jennefer Hesk***

Mrs Aleksandra Jovanovic also retires this year from her role as a member of the Histology and Embryology Division. Sasa first joined the School of Anatomical Sciences in the role of an associate lecturer and was soon promoted to lecturer.

During her tenure in the School of Anatomical Sciences which spanned more than a decade, Mrs Jovanovic formed part of the teaching teams for Speech and Hearing, Medical Cell Biology, Human and Comparative Biology as well as the Therapeutic Sciences and Medicine courses. In addition, to her various roles within the Histology and Embryology Division, she also served as the co-ordinator for the histology component of the Medics course.

In addition to her various teaching roles, Sasa also completed her MSc under the supervision of Professor Beverley Kramer which was later published as "The effect of hyperstimulation on transforming growth factor  $\beta$ 1 and  $\beta$ 2 in the rat uterus: possible consequences for embryo implantation" in the Fertility and Sterility. We wish her all the best for her future endeavours and will never forget her contributions to the School.



***Mrs Aleksandra Jovanovic***

### **Funding**

A number of staff members secured funding for the continuation of research projects or to start with new endeavours. Professor Desiré Brits, Drs Tanya Calvey, Erin Hutchinson, Busisiwe Maseko and Ayanda Ngwenya's NRF Thuthuka grants were renewed while Dr Kutlwano Xulu was a new NRF Thuthuka grant recipient. Dr Tanya Augustine received a Competitive, Support Foundation grant from the NRF and Dr Meyer received a bursary from the Commonwealth Association of Museums to attend a workshop/conference. Dr Pedzisai Mazenganya was also the fortunate

recipient of an International Brain Research Organization (IBRO) Research Grant.

### **Edited book**

After 21 years, Dr Erin Hutchinson, Dr Jason Hemingway and Professor Desiré Brits edited the School of Anatomical Sciences dissection manual, which was first authored by Professors Jules Kieser and Jack Allan. This dissection manual entitled "Practical Anatomy" was first published in 1999. This was a mammoth task motivated by providing students with an up-to-date affordable dissection manual. Congratulations to the editors.

### **World Anatomy Day**

The School celebrated World Anatomy Day (WAD) in October and organized a virtual event entitled "Reflections on Anatomy" which provided a platform for staff and students to discuss the ever changing anatomy teaching environment. Staff and students from the School of Anatomical Sciences also attended the World Anatomy Day hosted by the Anatomical Society of Southern Africa (ASSA). Dr Tanya Augustine and Professor Desiré Brits were invited to present at the virtual Woman in Anatomy platform at the ASSA WAD and two students, Ms Bontle Mamabolo and Mr Craig Keyes presented teaser related to their current research.

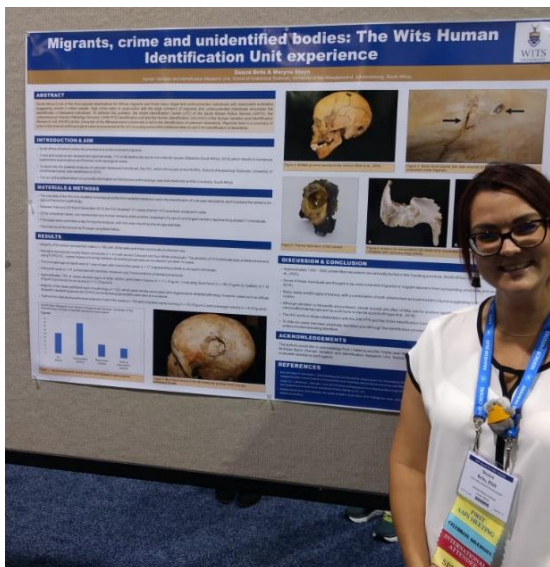
### **Wits Faculty of Health Sciences Biennial Virtual Research Day and Postgraduate Expo**

Several staff and students represented the School of Anatomical Sciences at this year's Wits Faculty of Health Sciences Biennial Research Day and Postgraduate Expo. This year the event was hosted virtually, and the School would like to acknowledge Dr Joshua Davimes and Dr Kutlwano Xulu's involvement in making this day a great success. Mrs Asmau Shehu, Ms Amy Spies, Miss Tamara Lottering and Dr Kutlwano Xulu prepared oral presentations while Mr Craig Keyes, Miss Laurette Joubert, Ms Sabiha Latiff, Dr Joshua Davimes and Ms Mahlatse Mahasha presented posters. Dr Brendon Billings won the Best staff poster for the theme Clinical Sciences and Therapeutics for Health (Group A) while Mr Arthur Manjatika received the third prize for the community leader board prize.

### **72<sup>nd</sup> Annual Scientific Meeting of the American Academy of Forensic Sciences**

Just a few weeks before the national lockdown Professor Desiré Brits attended the 72<sup>nd</sup> American Academy of Forensic Sciences (AAFS) Annual Scientific Meeting in Anaheim, California. Prof Brits presented a poster entitled "Migrants, crime, and the unidentified bodies: The Wits Human Identification Unit (HIU) experience"

authored by D Brits and M Steyn. As a grant holder, Prof Brits was also invited to the Humanitarian and Human Rights Poster Session, where she presented a poster entitled “Urban scavenging of skeletal remains by the slender mongoose (*Galerella Sanguinea*) in Johannesburg, South Africa” authored by CA Keyes, J Myburgh and D Brits. This was an incredible event where Prof Brits had the opportunity to meet and engage with various renowned researchers in the field of Forensic Anthropology.



***Prof Brits at the AAFS annual meeting in Anaheim, California.***

**15<sup>th</sup> Annual Academic Surgical Congress, Orlando Florida, USA 3 Feb - 6 Feb 2020.**

Dr Tanya Augustine was an invited speaker as the Scales-Antrobus Prize winner from the Surgical Research Society Meeting in

2019. The work that was presented: “Anti-platelet therapy as an adaptive pressure for tumour cell survival – an ex vivo analysis”, was co-authored by Kutlwano Xulu (first author) and Raquel Duarte. Tanya also chaired a cross-disciplinary session. This was a fantastic event that allowed Tanya to meet numerous surgeons and scientists interested in translational work.

**9<sup>th</sup> Congress of the International Society of Forensic Radiology and Imaging**

During September 2020, Ms Amy Spies, a PhD student in the School of Anatomical Sciences attended the 9<sup>th</sup> Congress of the International Society of Forensic Radiology and Imaging (ISFRI) virtual event. Ms Spies presented a poster entitled “The sensitivities of various imaging modalities in detecting skeletal trauma in simulated cases of child abuse” which was authored by AJ Spies, M Steyn, E Bussy, D Brits.

**University of Oxford – Machine Learning Summer School**

In August 2020, Cassi-Lee Gewer, a BHSc Neuroscience Honours student from the School of Anatomical Sciences, was accepted (fully funded) to represent the University of the Witwatersrand at the University of Oxford’s Machine Learning Summer School (OxML). Ms Gewer’s main research interests include computational neuroscience and specifically machine

learning and she has been guided by some of the most forward-thinking and innovative supervisors that endorse her multidisciplinary approach - Dr Tanya Calvey (School of Anatomical Sciences), Professor Benjamin Rosman (School of Applied Mathematics and Computer Science), and Nhanisi Ndlovu (School of Anatomical Sciences). The OxML summer school included a 7 day programme filled with complex technological applications within society, mainly focussing on medicine. The lectures ranged from Naïve Bayesian theory, deep neural networks, machine learning (ML) and genetics, magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) data and its relevant algorithms, to predictions of medicine and health sciences in the years to come. The summer school was not hosted on the grounds of the University of Oxford as originally planned; however, this event was a large virtual success. The students were lectured by individuals who are world-renowned for their achievements in ML, medicine, biotechnology, and industry. With the role of artificial intelligence (AI) in medicine developing at a rapid rate, the summer school provided insight into strategies and trajectories that will inspire future explorations to come. Our current neuroscience research at the University of the Witwatersrand is aiming to explore and gain insight into the human brain, its microstructures and physiology, by using technological advances, as well as integrating intricate computations,

machine learning and code. This marks a novel multidisciplinary approach.



***Ms Cassi-Lee Gewer***

We wish to congratulate Ms Gewer on this wonderful accolade.

**Kimberleigh Tommy: Inspiring Fifty Women, Black Woman in Science (BWIS) and Mail and Guardian's 200 Young South Africans**

Kimberleigh Tommy is a 2<sup>nd</sup> year PhD candidate in the Human Variation and Identification Research Unit, School of Anatomical Sciences under the supervision of Prof Lynne Schepartz. Her PhD is entitled "A comparative study of trabecular structure of the patellofemoral joint: Evolutionary and biomechanical perspectives". Her research focuses on the evolution of bipedalism through analyses of

trabecular structure of lower limb joints of extant anthropoids, in order to determine if trabecular structure is accurate at differentiating locomotor behaviours and if so, what other variables (i.e. pathology and activity levels) influence trabecular remodelling. She has presented aspects of this work at international conferences in Europe and the USA.



***Ms Kimberleigh Tommy***

In 2019, Ms Tommy was selected as a postgraduate blogger for the South African Young Academy of Science (SAYAS) where she discussed important topics related to the postgraduate journey and was named a Black Woman in Science (BWIS) Fellow for 2019/2020. She also serves as a National Geographic Umsuka Public Palaeoanthropology project member and facilitator where she works with local community members within the

Cradle Heritage Site. In 2020 she was named one of Mail and Guardian's 200 Young South Africans in the Science and Technology category. This annual list consists of South Africans under the age of 35 who are considered by the Mail & Guardian to be influential change makers and thought leaders within their field. She was also recently named as one of the Inspiring Fifty Women in STEM by CoCreate SA, an initiative of the Kingdom of the Netherlands in South Africa. We wish to congratulate Ms Tommy on her remarkable achievements.

We wish to congratulate Kimberleigh Tommy, a PhD candidate in our School, as an awardee in the **L'ORÉAL-UNESCO FOR WOMEN IN SCIENCE PROGRAMME:**

**THE L'ORÉAL-UNESCO FOR WOMEN IN SCIENCE PROGRAMME RECOGNISES SOUTH AFRICAN FEMALE SCIENTISTS FOR THEIR GROUNDBREAKING RESEARCH**

*L'Oréal South Africa awards research grants to six exceptional young women scientists.* 2020 marks the second edition of the **L'Oréal-UNESCO For Women in Science South African National Young Talents Programme.** The programme supports young female scientists and rewards scientific excellence. Created in 1998 and led by the Fondation L'Oréal in

partnership with UNESCO, the For Women in Science programme aims to improve the representation of women in scientific careers, strong in the conviction that the world needs science, and science needs women.

“The COVID-19 pandemic continues to have wide spread impact globally and we all had to adjust to the “new normal”. Ultimately, science will provide solutions for many of the unprecedented challenges that the world is currently facing. This is why L’Oréal and UNESCO have been empowering young female scientists for 22 years, more than 3,400 researchers from 118 countries have been supported and recognised.” explains Gilles Antoine, Country Manager of L’Oréal South Africa.

“Women in science have the power to change the world provided they are given the means and support. This year, as we honour six emerging women scientists from across South Africa, we reaffirm our commitment to supporting young women scientists, who are at the helm of very important research projects,” he concludes. The challenges humanity is currently facing are unprecedented in scale. It is clear that science is and will be one of the keys that enable us to address them, as it always has been at important moments in history.

[L’Oreal-UNESCO For Women in Science award winners 2020 - YouTube](#)

## **Changing the narrative: celebrating South Africa’s young scientists by Maropeng Visitors Centre.**



***Jesse Fredericks***

Jesse Fredericks is a 2<sup>nd</sup> year MSc candidate in the Human Variation and Identification Research Unit, School of Anatomical Sciences, University of the Witwatersrand under the supervision of Dr Jason Hemingway (Wits) and A/Prof Victoria Gibbon (UCT). Her MSc is entitled “Morphological measures of population dynamics during the Later Stone Age of South Africa”. Her research uses cranial morphology to look at movement and contact between the LSA peoples of South Africa.

She serves as a National Geographic Umsuka Public Palaeoanthropology



project member and facilitator where she works with local community members within the Cradle Heritage Site. She was recently featured for a youth month campaign “Changing the narrative: celebrating South Africa’s young scientists” by Maropeng Visitors Centre. This campaign features young scientists who have worked in and around the Cradle Heritage site and focuses on: “How these individuals became interested in their fields, what it’s like to be a young scientist in SA’s current landscape, how young scientists are benefitting the discipline and some of the best and worst things about what these inspiring individuals do?”. While reflecting on her selection, Jesse mentions how she used to love watching documentaries on palaeontology and archaeology but never thought she’d end up in this field, it was one of those childhood dreams and forgot about until she stumbled into anthropology in her third year undergrad. She still feels very new to

research and it’s really exciting to be showcased alongside some the amazing young people in this field. One of the best things about this field is that the young scientists, researchers, explorers, technicians, and everyone else involved have created a community of support and kindness. It is an honour for Jesse to be invited and welcomed into this community and to be given the opportunity to meet and work with some of the people who she looks up to. In becoming part of this network of young scientists, this opportunity has opened some incredible doors that she didn’t realise existed and has afforded her numerous opportunities in science. Jesse hopes in turn to do her part in making science more accessible to other young people.”

**Associate Professor Desiré Brits  
University of the Witwatersrand**

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

The Department of Human Anatomy and Physiology (HAP) kicked off the 2020 academic year with the Annual Dedication Ceremony. Staff and students acknowledged the selfless sacrifice of the body donors at this ceremony that was attended by the Vice-Dean (Teaching and Learning), Prof. Craig Vincent-Lambert, and the HoD of Complimentary Medicine, Dr. Radmila Razlog. They both led the programme with heartfelt motivational talks. Dr. Razlog, also a former student of HAP, shared her personal experiences of the dissection hall and studying anatomy in her 2<sup>nd</sup> year of study, which truly inspired the class of 2020.

The 2020 academic year was thereafter impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. Academics countrywide were in uncharted waters and unable to continue with contact learning due to the National lockdown that closed institutions of higher learning. Fortunately, the University of Johannesburg prides itself in driving 4.0IR Teaching and Learning initiatives and quickly made the transition to online teaching. HAP staff members demonstrated their proficiency in online and the blended-style teaching techniques; successfully using online modalities to

create interactive online modules to ensure that the 2020 academic programme could continue to its completion. HAP continues to invest in additional online resources, with the recent purchase of Complete Anatomy and Visible Body for the 2021 academic year.

Online teaching also highlighted the collegiality that exists within the University of Johannesburg as the Faculty of Health Sciences collaborated with the Centre for Academic Technologies (CAT) to construct a Health Sciences Learning Hub using *Blackboard Learn*. A series of workshops were hosted to assist faculty members with seamless transition to the remote online module delivery. Nicolene Jooste, from HAP, was invited to conduct two of these workshops. The first workshop presented information about creating media-intensive learning resources using PowerPoint. Also discussed, were methods to ensure suitable file sizes for learning resources and guarantee inclusive access to students with limited data and technological equipment. The session concluded with various techniques for inserting the learning resources and other media (i.e. images, videos, YouTube videos, weblinks) into *Blackboard Learn* modules. The

second session considered the essay-style test question feature and the Grade Centre on *Blackboard*. Best practices regarding essay questions that were discussed included setting essay questions, creating and using rubrics, creating question sets, importing questions into the Test Canvas using Excel, moderation on *Blackboard* and marking by question or single attempt. The session ended with practical advice on how to manage student test attempts using tools in the Grade Centre including the access log, submit student attempt, mark override and mark history features. The entire lecture series was well-received and fostered an atmosphere of support and collaboration among staff of the Faculty.

In 2020, we welcomed two visiting professors into the Department; Prof. Ahmed Moustafa of the University of Western Sydney, who is currently an Associate Professor of Cognitive and Behavioral Neuroscience; and Prof. Jephath Chifamba, who is a Professor of Physiology and Deputy Dean of the College of Health Sciences at the University of Zimbabwe.

HAP also hosted a successful Public Lecture for Mental Health Awareness week, where Prof Ahmed Moustafa presented on, “The Computational and Cognitive Neuropsychology of Parkinson’s Disease.” The lecture was well-received by

the wider Faculty and university community.

The Anatomists of HAP were excited to participate in the ASSA World Day celebration and the IFAA Virtual Symposium on World Anatomy Day held on 14 and 15 October 2020, respectively. The event afforded them the opportunity to engage with fellow colleagues from the global Anatomy network and to share experiences on online teaching, and the future offering of Anatomy.

Lastly, we would like to congratulate Dr. Pilani Nkomozezi on his appointed as the HoD of HAP and we wish him all the best for this new role. Dr. Nkomozezi has taken over from Prof. Shahed Nalla - Thank you, Prof. Nalla for your invaluable contribution to HAP.



***Dr Pilani Nkomozezi***

Dr Pilani Nkomozepezi hails from Zimbabwe. He graduated with an intercalated Bachelor of Science (Hons) in Human Anatomy after completing his pre-clinical medical studies at the University of Zimbabwe. Thereafter, he completed a Masters in Human Anatomy at the School of Medicine at the University of Zimbabwe. He graduated with a PhD in Anatomical Sciences (Neuroanatomy) from the School of Anatomical Sciences at the University of the Witwatersrand.

Dr Nkomozepezi has embarked on a new journey, with his recent appointment as the Head of the Department of Human Anatomy and Physiology at the University of Johannesburg. He has 18 years of experience as an Anatomy lecturer

teaching undergraduate medical and allied health science students at the University of Zimbabwe, University of the Witwatersrand and University of Johannesburg.

Dr Nkomozepezi has excelled in the field of research over the last few years with a number of publications in high impact factor journals. His current research focuses on Dietary and HAART induced metabolic syndrome and the related neuropathic, hepatic and renal complications. He is also interested on the impact of high-energy diets and HAART on the intestinal barrier and the role of gut microbiota in metabolic dysfunction.

**Sundika Ishwarkumar**  
**University of Johannesburg**

## University of Stellenbosch: Division of Clinical Anatomy



The Bakeng se Afrika team of Stellenbosch University (SU) attended the second Interim meeting between 11-13 November 2020. Due to the COVID 19 pandemic the meeting was required to be held virtually by the host team, Sefako Makgatho Health Science University (SMU). Despite the transition of this meeting to an online format, it was very enjoyable, insightful, and well hosted by SMU.

The meeting began with a welcome from Prof Oettle which was followed by a combined presentation from UP, SMU and SU regarding scanning progress to date, scanning protocols, and stitching processes done on the skeletal elements at South African Nuclear Energy Corporation (Necsa). Stephanie Lathe updated the SU scanning progress and Rachel Pieterse followed with a presentation comparing scanning protocols between X-sight and Necsa facilities. During the afternoon session Stephanie Lathe presented her final Master's degree research project after which Mandi Alblas presented an update on Bakeng se Afrika related research projects from SU between 2019 and 2021. Her presentation included problems experienced during 2020.

During the lunch break short videos of student projects were played for viewing. A short one-minute presentation of Luke-John Daniels MSc project on 'Edentulous mouth morphology and its impact in Forensic Facial Depiction' was featured. On Thursday morning, Kerri Keet presented the literature review of her PhD thesis topic which will investigate the ethical, legal and cultural aspects of digital information obtained from deceased human bodies. There is a lack of legislation covering the acquisition and use of digital images and 3D prints from deceased humans. This is incredibly relevant as information obtained in the PhD will be

beneficial to databases such as Bakeng se Afrika as well as all institutions using images and 3D prints of cadaver material in teaching and research.

On the last day, Friday the 13<sup>th</sup> of November, Alecia Erasmus presented the dissemination challenges and opportunities that SU experienced during 2020 and the way forward. The event was thoroughly enjoyed by the SU team and it was a great experience seeing the other teams again, discussing the Bakeng se Afrika project, and seeing all the advances that have been made.

### **Farewell to Linda Greyling**



***Linda Greyling***

Linda Greyling, fondly known as "Mrs G", will be retiring at the end of 2020 after serving in the Division of Clinical Anatomy for 12 years.

Linda has a passion for teaching and her love of anatomy was clearly visible during lectures and practical sessions. She teaches anatomy with the strong background and experience in nursing and utilised this clinical approach in lectures. She enjoys using stories of lived experiences to help student learning. A colleague commented "She has such vast knowledge that we all admire, from embryology to almost anything in anatomy on an undergraduate and postgraduate level. On the odd occasion that she does not know something, she will look it up and come back to you with a comprehensive answer. Linda is a special person in so many ways. She is gentle, kind-hearted and patient towards her students and colleagues. She always makes time for everyone, often taking on problems and extra tasks without complaining to make everyone's lives better. She is always willing to assist and meets everyone with a

smile every morning. An exam invigilator remembers that during tests when a student raises their hand to ask a question, Linda would listen attentively, answer as best she could and before walking away would rub the student's shoulder and with a smile say "you are doing well, keep it up". This was a common sight during tests.

We depend heavily on Linda's knowledge, wisdom and competence and we will find it difficult to function without her! Linda, your retirement is a bitter-sweet occasion for us as you are so loved by students and staff, but we also know that you deserve the break. You leave us with big shoes to fill and we will miss you greatly! Enjoy your retirement and THANK YOU for all you have done!

**Dr Kerri Keet & Professor Sanet Kotze**  
**University of Stellenbosch**

## University of Western Cape: Department of Medical Bioscience

At UWC, Anatomy staff are part of the integrated *Department of Medical Bioscience* in the Faculty of Natural Sciences. Prof. Ralf Henkel who greatly supported the staff of the Anatomy cluster in the Department in all ramifications, took an early retirement.



***Prof. Ralf Henkel (Retired; former HOD)***

Former Deputy HOD, Prof. André Oelofse was appointed as the new HOD while ASSA Council member, *Associate Prof. Okobi Ekpo* was appointed *Deputy HOD*. Head of Department, in July 2020.



***Prof. André Oelofse (new HOD)***

Ms Cyrilleen McKay joined the MBS Department as Anatomy Officer in late 2019 but began her duties in full in 2020. Since then, she has overseen Dentistry student Practicals and dissections.



***Ms Cyrilleen McKay***



**Mr. Dean Solomons**

Mr. Dean Solomons was promoted to the rank of Senior Anatomy Officer.

**Collaborations:**

Anatomy colleagues Retha Kotze, Okobi Ekpo and Marjorie Smith were invited as content supervisors in a collaboration project for the *Postgraduate Diploma in e-Skills with Immersive Technologies Stream* in the Department of Computer Science at UWC. Students in this programme were tasked to develop an App for the teaching and learning of anatomy in 3-D and Virtual reality platforms. The App is currently under end-user review for further standardization.



**Associate Prof. Okobi Ekpo**

Associate Prof. Okobi Ekpo was awarded the *Faculty Excellent Lecturer* during a University-wide Virtual event.



**Associate Prof. Okobi Ekpo**  
**University of the Western Cape**



# University of Cape Town: Department of Human Biology

## New Staff Member:



**Jeshika Luckrajh**

Ms. Jeshika Luckrajh joined the Department of Human Biology at UCT in January 2020 as a Lecturer of Clinical Anatomy. She completed her Master's degree in Clinical Anatomy at UKZN in 2019, following her research into the anatomy of the proximal anterior cerebral artery complex and its association with anterior communicating artery aneurysms. Her research interests include vascular and neuroanatomy. In her young career, Jeshika has several publications, national and international conference presentations

and has been awarded many grants. During her first year at UCT, Jeshika has been involved in lecturing Health and Rehabilitation students and convenes the 1st year course. She is also involved in the facilitation of dissection practicals for 2nd and 3rd year medical student; and has secured 3 grants to start-up her research at UCT. Jeshika is a member of the Anatomical Society of Southern Africa, American Association of Anatomists, Golden Key International Honour Society and the South African Association of Women Graduates. For more information, follow this link:

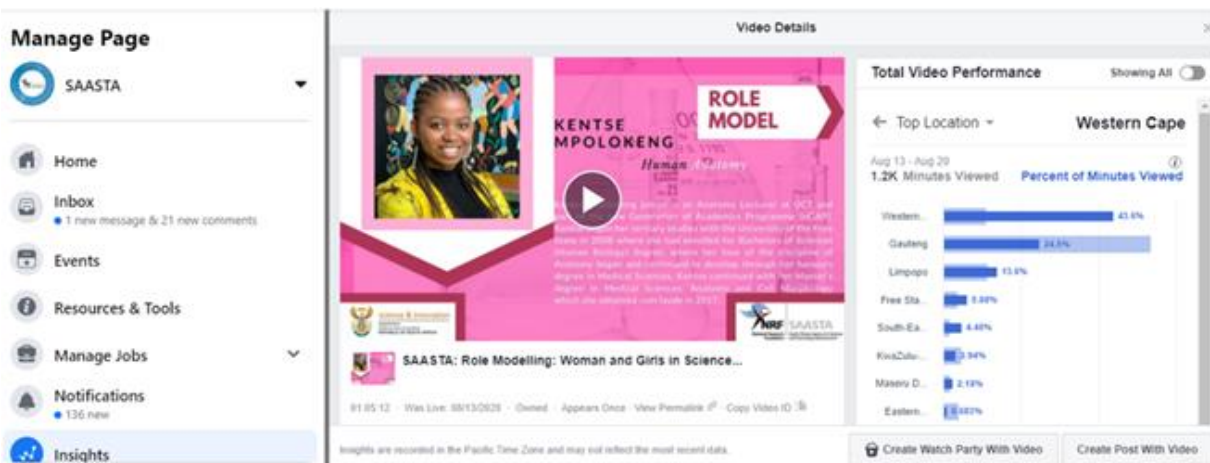
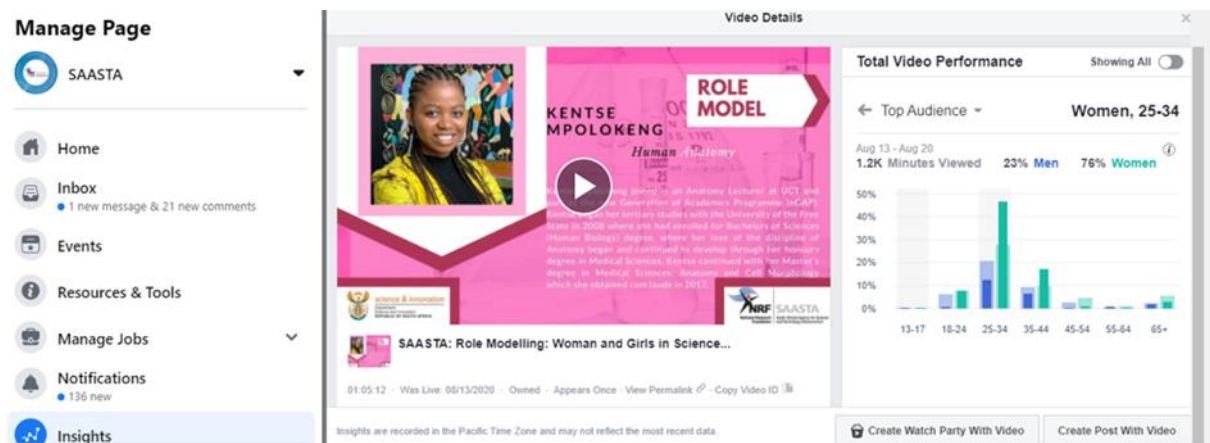
<http://www.anatomybioanth.uct.ac.za/jeshika-luckrajh>.

## Science engagement

Ms, Kentse Mpolokeng, was invited to participate in the Science Engagement Virtual Role Modelling session hosted by the South African Agency for Science and Technology Advancement in collaboration with the National Research foundation (SAASTA/NRF).

This initiative was aimed at 'Celebrating Women in Science' and reached out to young female learners doing Mathematics and Science in high school. It informed them about various career paths in Science. Kentse was invited to share about Human Anatomy (what is it, how to get into the study program, research in Anatomy, being an Anatomy lecturer).

The session was held on the 13 August 2020 and had a wide reach across the country, see the figures: views, reach and percentages. The learner feedback was absolutely amazing with most hearing about anatomy for the first time.



For more information on SAASTA/NRF and a copy of the presentation follow this link:

<https://www.facebook.com/events/226859828576671>

**International Association of Business  
Communicator (Africa chapter)**

**2020 Silver Quill awards of excellence  
and merit**



for

UCT News features on

2019 Body Donor Commemoration ceremony and  
Graham Louw's retirement interview



Second-year medical students Joseph Lichtman, Khalid Abduroaf and Sinalo Nyakambi participated in the annual cadaver memorialisation ceremony to honour those whose bodies are used to teach anatomy at the Faculty of Health Sciences. The full feature is available:

<https://www.news.uct.ac.za/article/-2019-11-21-the-dead-teach-in-a-universal-language>

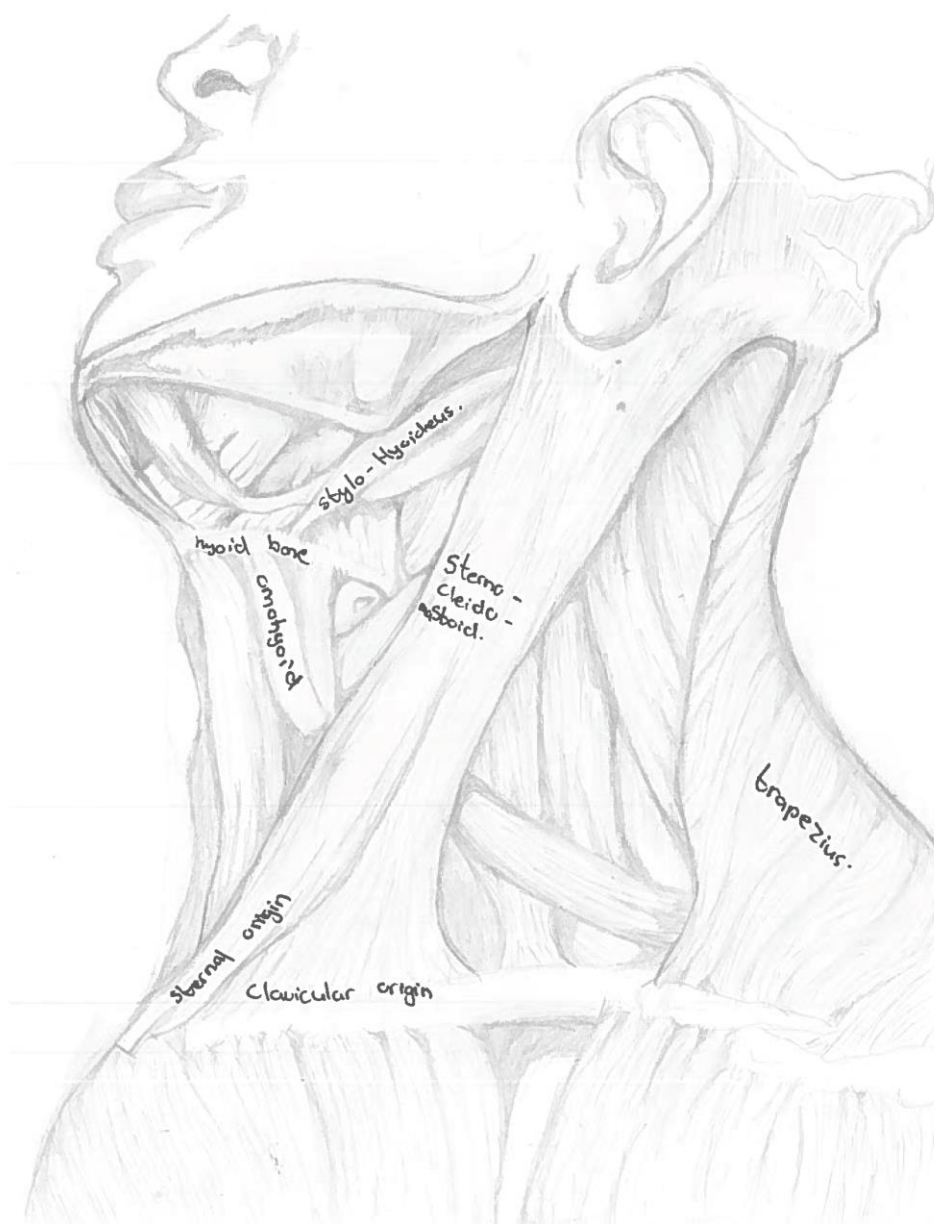
Doyen of clinical anatomy, neurosciences and embryology, Prof Graham Louw in the Anatomy Museum. He retired from UCT at the end of December after a career of 31 years. The full feature is available:

<https://www.news.uct.ac.za/article/-2020-01-15-body-of-work-reflections-of-an-anatomist>

# The Art of Anatomy



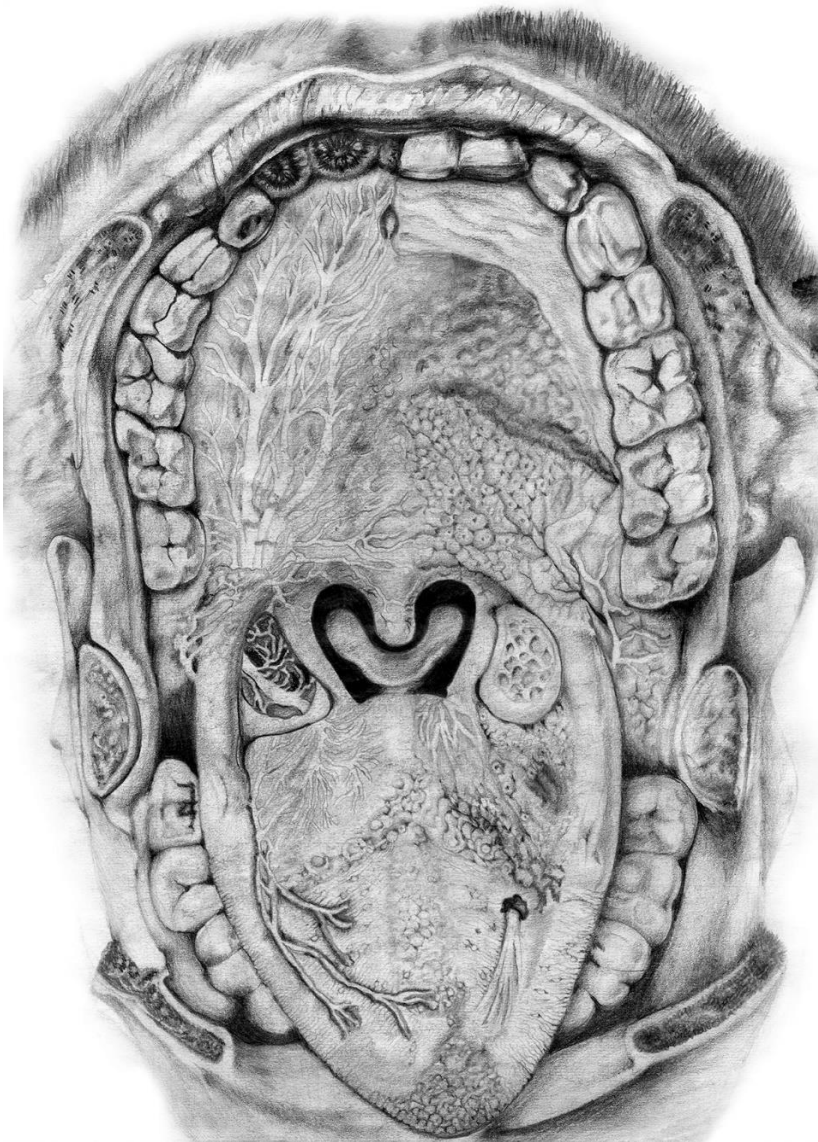
**Feature Entitled: Forensic Case Illustration  
by L Daniels, University of Stellenbosch**



Artist: Cameron Narainsamy is a first year at UWC (University of Western Cape) studying BSC Sports and Exercise Science.



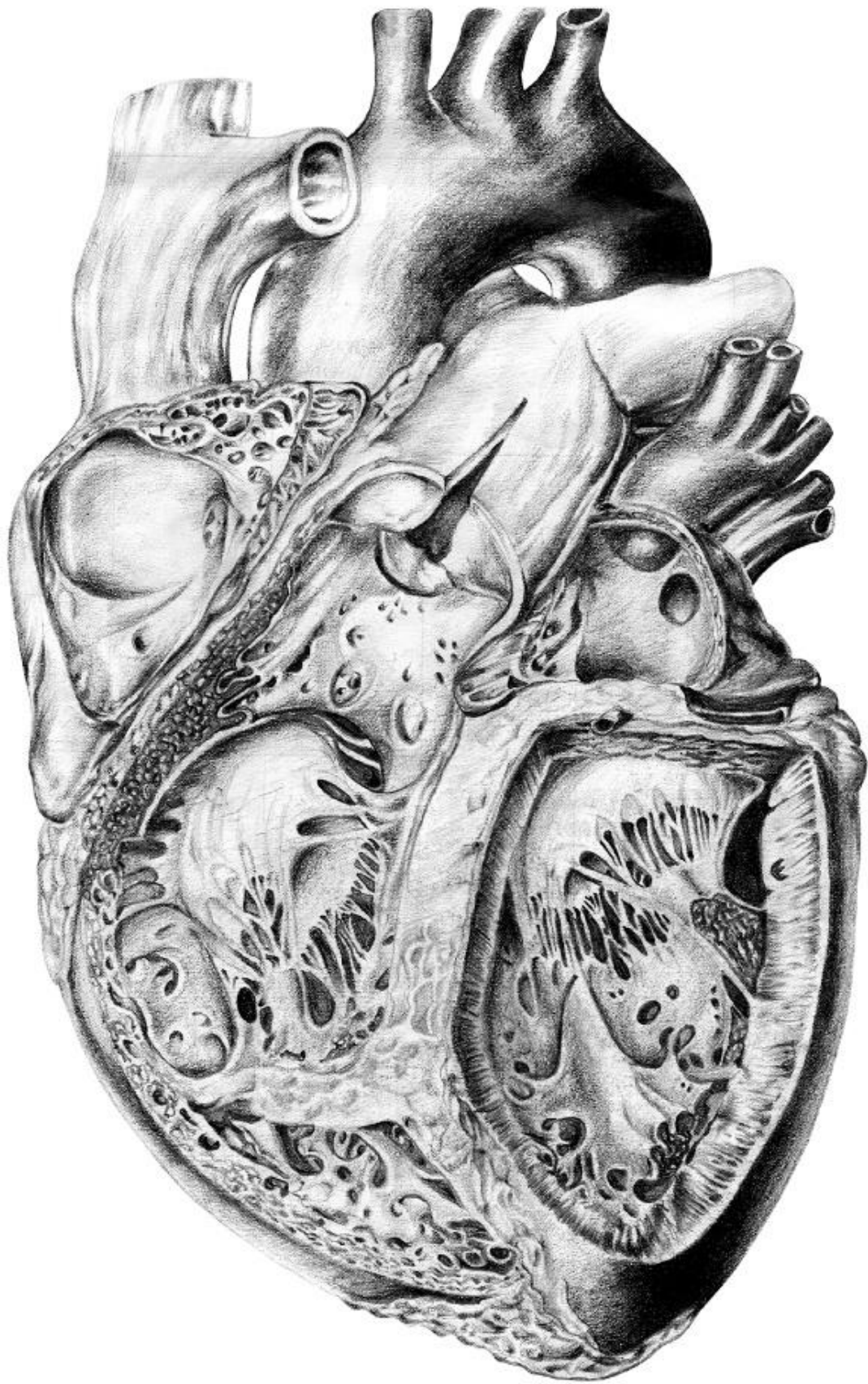
Jade Naicker (25), is a Masters student in Clinical Anatomy at the University of Pretoria. Jade has completed her undergraduate studies in BSc Medical Sciences before completing a BSc Honours degree in Macro-anatomy with her research centred on the Corona Mortis and developing safer approaches to pelvic orthopaedic procedures. Jade would like to further her skills in illustration and branch into graphic editing to create aesthetic digital illustrations and broaden her services to the greater anatomical community while continuing to pursue teaching of anatomy to Health Science students and producing reputable research.



**Artist: Jade Naicker**



*Artist: Jade Naicker*



*Artist: Jade Naicker*



# UPCOMING EVENTS

WITS  
UNIVERSITY



**UNIVERSITY OF THE WITWATERSRAND, JOHANNESBURG**

**FACULTY OF HEALTH SCIENCES**

**HEAD OF SCHOOL**

**SCHOOL OF ANATOMICAL SCIENCES**

Applications are invited for the headship of the School of Anatomical Sciences, one of seven Schools in the Faculty of Health Sciences, at the University of the Witwatersrand. The School of Anatomical Sciences comprises of three academic divisions, namely Morphological Anatomy, Structural Biology (histology), and Biological Anthropology. The School has a strong legacy of research excellence and significantly contributing to the training of health science students at undergraduate level, and to the scientific training of postgraduates in the faculty of Health Sciences. The position offers the potential for a suitable applicant to move the School into a new era of relevance, effectiveness and focus in its teaching and research enterprise.

**Responsibilities:**

The Head of School will be responsible to provide academic vision and leadership required to enable the School to establish and maintain a position of excellence within the University and in the wider educational context.

This will involve the management of all academic activities inclusive of teaching and research at undergraduate and postgraduate levels, student affairs and administrative matters within the School, including Human Resources, Financial Management and General Administration.

The Head of School will be responsible for the development and promotion of academic excellence within the School's constituent division in order to maintain the School's position of excellence and its diversity on interest of staff.

**Qualifications and Experience:**

A PhD in an appropriate discipline, Post PhD experience and extensive experience in university administration at a senior level are essential requirements.

The applicant must have excellent leadership, interpersonal and managerial skills and should have attained sufficient academic and professional standing to command the respect of the members of the School.

The successful candidate will be appointed as a Head of School for a fixed term of 5 years, renewable based on performance. Should the appointee be from outside the University, the appointee would be transferred to a continuous academic post at an appropriate level within the appropriate discipline, at the end of their term of office.

The awarding of the title Professor/Associate Professor/Adjunct Professor will depend on the successful candidate's qualifications, research and other academic criteria as determined by the faculty guidelines.

The University of the Witwatersrand is committed to employment equity and diversity. In accordance with the Employment Equity Plan of the University and its Employment Equity goals and targets, preference may be given, but is not limited to candidates from under-represented designated groups.

All candidates who comply with the requirements for appointment are invited to apply. All candidates agree to undergo verification of personal credentials.

The University of the Witwatersrand reserves the right not to appoint a candidate.

**Enquiry:** Prof M Veller 011 717 2555, [martin.veller@wits.ac.za](mailto:martin.veller@wits.ac.za)

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Apply via <https://irec.wits.ac.za> submit a detailed CV, application letter with the names, addresses and contact numbers of three referees and, certified copies of degrees/diplomas.

**Closing date: 31 December 2020**

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# GREETINGS FROM THE EDITOR

What an incredible year! While we have encountered unprecedented challenges over the course of this year, it is the resilience and commitment to the teaching and research of anatomy that has been truly inspiring. The ingenuity of the anatomy community has been particularly prevalent in the adaptation of content to the various online platforms and in our ability, despite the challenges of lockdown and COVID, to continue to pursue our research interests and share our findings with the broader scientific community.

In showing our resilience as an anatomy community, ASSA hosted its first ever virtual world anatomy day, we also witnessed the establishment of the Women in Anatomy forum as well as the first year that a Women's Day issue of this newsletter was released. Congratulations to everyone involved in bringing these initiatives to fruition! I also wanted to take the opportunity in this issue, to highlight the artistic contributions of our budding anatomists! I hope you find inspiration in the contributions of these talented individuals.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all news contributors, the news presented is the news provided and as such without your contributions we would not have this platform. I would once again like challenge everyone to embrace the spirit of World Anatomy Day and keep the news coming! 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 2021!

Best wishes



*Erin Hutchinson*