



NEWSLETTER OF THE
ANATOMICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTHERN AFRICA

2023

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Message from the President of the Anatomical Society of Southern Africa



Professor Albert Van Schoor
ASSA President

Dear ASSA members,

I am writing this message with enthusiasm of what 2023 will bring. It feels like a lifetime ago, but it was only around March this year that in-person student contact resumed. Things have almost gone back to usual, but hopefully we can continue to employ and develop the hard lessons that were learned during the Covid pandemic. From what I have heard, many of you had a successful academic year despite the hardships, albeit everyone feels that the workload had increased significantly during this transition.

Following the success of the first ever virtual ASSA conference in 2021, the 49th annual conference of the Anatomical Society of Southern Africa was also presented on an online platform and was arguably a triumph. I would once more like to thank Ms Bridget Langa, as well as the organizing teams from the University of the Western Cape for organizing this event. Next year there will be no ASSA conference, instead we eagerly anticipating the XXVIII International Symposium on Morphological Sciences: Vision 2023 & Beyond from the 5th to the 8th of August 2023 in Cape

Town, Western Cape. Prof. Louw and the organizing committee have already done a mountain of work in preparation for this hybrid international conference. More detail is available at: <https://uctcmc.eventsair.com/xxviii-international-symposium-on-morphological-sciences-isms/>

In celebration of World Anatomy Day (15 October 2021), we were able to once more have an ASSA World Anatomy Day online symposium on the 13th of October. It was a platform that allowed our postgraduate students to present their research, as well as an opportunity to showcase some of the wonderful art created by our talented students and ASSA members alike. The sessions were facilitated by Jade Naicker (UP), Shavana Govender (UP), and Leonard Shapiro (UCT), respectively.

Our website is also currently undergoing a major revision and we look forward to its reveal to the work in early 2023. I would like to thank Dr Jolandie Myburgh (UP) for this initiative, as well as Prof. Desire Brits (Wits) and Tony Meadows (Wits) for their continued support. From Council, we bid farewell to Prof. Ekpo and Dr Alblas as Council members. New members included Prof. Briers and Dr Xulu. I would like to extend my gratitude to the members of the ASSA Council for their hard work and dedication. Our mailing group is quite active, and I am grateful for your quick responses. Thank you for your support and continued hard work and the leadership you provide in the society.

In conclusion, I would like to say that our Society is thriving only because of the quality of its members. To all of you, I would like to thank you for your support of anatomy in Southern Africa, and also for being ambassadors to the international community. I wish everyone a successful end of the academic year, and a peaceful and safe festive season.

Prof. Albert van Schoor

In tribute to
PROFESSOR KRIKOR ERZINGATSIAN, FRCSI
(1942-2022)



**The father of Clinical Anatomy in Zambia-
PROFESSOR KRIKOR ERZINGATSIAN,
FRCSI (1942-2022)**

It is with great sadness that the anatomy community mourns the passing of Professor Krikor, as he was fondly known. Professor Krikor was known as a philanthropist, methodical, meticulous and meritorious teacher

and practitioner of surgery and clinical anatomy. Professor Krikor joined the Department of Surgery of the University Teaching Hospital of the University of Zambia (UNZA) in 1977 shortly after completing the Fellow of College of Surgeons in Ireland (FRCSI) programme. He joined RCSI in 1963 where he received numerous prizes in basic medical sciences including Anatomy. He consistently applied himself at both the RCSI and UNZA where he was recognized as Demonstrator of Anatomy at the former, and Professor in the Department of Surgery at the latter.

He played foundational roles, received numerous awards, and served as President for both the Surgical Society of Zambia and the College of Surgeon East, Central and Southern. He founded the anatomical training programme in Zambia, graduating the first PhD in 2004 and pioneering the MSc programme in 2012.

An Armenian-Ethiopian with neither wife nor child, he is survived by surgeons and anatomists alike. May His Soul Rest In Eternal Peace.

Dr Mbawe Zulu

**Copperbelt University Michael Chilufya
Sata School of Medicine**

Zambia

ASSA DISTINGUISHED MEMBER AWARD: PROFESSOR MARYNA STEYN



At the April 2022 meeting of the Anatomical Society of Southern Africa, Professor Maryna Steyn was awarded the “Distinguished Member Award”. Prof. Steyn has been a member of the Society for over 30 years, and in this time has made a significant and lasting impact on both full members and student members of the Society, as well as the Society itself.

Since joining the ASSA, Prof. Steyn has been a regular attendee at the annual conferences and together with her students, have contributed over 100 oral and poster presentations. She has been the recipient of the Antoinette Kotze award for the best first-time presenter and a number of her students have also received the Antoinette Kotze award as well as the ASSA Award for best oral presentation by a young presenter (previously the Bob Symington) for their ASSA presentations.

Prof. Steyn’s contributions are however not limited to her attendance of, and presentations at the ASSA congresses. She was part of the ASSA organizing committee in 2008 and over

the years, has acted as chairperson for numerous academic sessions and adjudicator for conference awards. She has organized and presented various workshops at the annual ASSA conferences and was instrumental in establishing the Forensic Anthropology Interest Group (FAIG) for which she acted as the representative on Council. Prof Steyn was first elected as council member in 1994. In 2014 she was elected as the President of the Society, a position she fulfilled until 2019. During her tenure she encouraged active student involvement in the Society and supported representation of all Universities in the Society.

As a member of the ASSA Society, she is also recognised as a leader in the field of forensic anthropology and have received various awards and accolades for her work. As invited and/or keynote speaker, she has represented the Society at various local and international conferences and symposia where she has established a plethora of local and international collaborators.

She has served as reviewer for various journals, including Clinical Anatomy which used to be associated with the Society and has served as a member of the Editorial Board of Forensic Science International since 2006. She has published over 160 papers and 15 book chapters and have supervised more than 20 MSc and 15 PhD students. She is dedicated to continuous education and has organised various workshops for students and practitioners.

Associate Professor Desire Brits
School of Anatomical Sciences
University of the Witwatersrand

IFAA Matters

IFAA President's Emergent Anatomists Programme



In addition to assisting with the student event at ASSA 2022, the IFAA President's Emergent Anatomists Programme hosted a successful symposium at the 20th Congress of the International Federation of Associations of Anatomists in August 2022. The online symposium panel consisted of Dr Carol Hartmann (University of the Witwatersrand), Prof Nalini Pather (University of New South Wales) and Assoc. Prof Jason Organ (Indiana University School of Medicine). The talks covered important concepts of developing as a scientist including how to prepare a CV, Networking and increasing your involvement in Anatomical communities and using social

media for Scientific Communication. A short question and answer session after the talks allowed participants to gain further insight into these important aspects of growing their careers.

The IFAA President's Emergent Anatomists Programme has also hosted three Introduction to Scientific Writing workshops throughout 2022, which have been an invaluable opportunity for those who attended to reinvigorate their scientific writing. If you would like to be added to the mailing list and informed of the 2023 events, please email ifaa.peap@gmail.com.

ASSA WORLD ANATOMY DAY VIRTUAL SYMPOSIUM

In celebration of World Anatomy Day (WAD) and following the success of the previous ASSA World Anatomy Day online symposia that was introduced as an annual event in 2020, I was delighted to have announced the 3rd ASSA WAD online symposium that was held on Thursday, 13 October 2022.

As always, the goal of this symposium was to provide postgraduate students, as well as registered student members of the Society and opportunity to present any current research.

There was a wealth of research that covered all aspects of the anatomical sciences and was presented over two academic sessions, chaired by Ms Jade Naicker (UP) and Ms Shavana Govender (UP), respectively.

Considering its popularity at the 2nd ASSA WAD online symposium as well as the 49th ASSA conference in April 2022, provision was again made to showcase the extraordinary art of some of our students, as well as members. The session was facilitated by L Shapiro (UCT) and

included talented artists exhibiting and discussion their artistic works. This session was extremely well received and we are excited to develop this further for future ASSA WAD celebrations.

Greg Keyter from Elsevier was generous enough to sponsor some book prizes that was raffled off and awarded to participants of each session. Stephen Coetzee (Elsevier) was also kind enough to provide everyone in attendance

a Complete Anatomy demonstration, as well as tease Osmosis as a learning and teaching platform.

I would particularly like to thank Ms Jade Naicker (UP) for her assistance in organizing the 3rd ASSA WAD online symposium and we look forward to hosting the next one in 2023.

**kindest regards and stay safe
 Prof. Albert van Schoor**

University of Namibia: Department of Anatomy

Over the past year UNAM has seen many changes; starting with an amalgamation of faculties. The Faculty of Health Sciences and Veterinary Medicine, which includes six schools, now also includes the School of Medicine. The departments within schools also merged and the anatomy unit now resides within the Department of Human, Biological & Translational Medicine, under guidance of Professor Quenton Wessels. The new Executive Dean, Prof Judith Hall from Cardiff, a long-time advocate for Namibia and UNAM, was appointed in the beginning of 2022. The example set by Prof Hall and Prof Wessels underwrites the importance of leadership within academia, education, and administration. It is through their leadership and teamwork that the anatomy unit continues to improve teaching, research, and innovation.

Prof. Quenton Wessels completed his second PhD, this time around in Health Professions Education, at UCT with the title: "Understanding Leadership Development in new Medical Schools in Africa". He is also heading up the newly established medical education unit making sure academic response to education is just as pioneering as our research. Ms Annelie du Plessis completed her Ph.D. in Anatomy, at

University of Pretoria, titled "Quantitative Differentiation of Thoracolumbar Transitional Vertebrae: Possible Embryological Origins And Associations With Other Anomalies In The Vertebral Column." Mrs Tina Shatri was promoted to senior lecturer in Anatomy and is involved with research and projects, on the use of indigenous plants in treatment of diarrhoea and gastric hyperacidity. Prof Oneymachi Azu, is spearheading cancer research and outreach, in collaboration with DKFZ, the German cancer research center. Working on cancer screening, establishing a network of key contacts in all centers and online treatment and patient discussion forums, as well as capacity building through education of radiographers at rural sites.

Adele du Plessis is coordinating the Dirisana, Erasmus grant with EU partners, Wits, SMU and UP. The faculty has been able to purchase a 3D printer and handheld 3D scanner for developing anatomy models with the assistance of the Dirisana Erasmus grant. As the cadaver dissection program at UNAM is not viable, other means of exposing students to 3D structures need to be explored, including 3D models and plastination of specimens to make them available for extended periods. The other

Dirisana+ subthemes faculty members participate in include: The development of an undergraduate journal for Health Sciences - now live on the SAMA platform, producing a logbook APP for clinical placements, the APP is available offline and will promoting digital accountability for student, lecturer and clinician.

Dr Adele du Plessis
University of Namibia

Faculty at the Namibian 4IR expo, with 3D printer and virtual reality teaching



Team building through art and the Cadaver ceremony 2022



University of Pretoria: Department of Anatomy

The UP Department of Anatomy has had a successful year and we are proud to share some of our highlights and happenings. This year our department said goodbye to Dr Helena Taute and Ms Shavana Govender. We wish them well on their future endeavours.

Celebrating World Anatomy Day the UP way

World Anatomy Day is celebrated worldwide on the 15th of October, so in celebration the Department of Anatomy, University of Pretoria celebrated with staff and students by hosting the first ever Amazing Anatomy Race, World Anatomy Day the UP Way. On 11 October 2022, the Prinshof Campus was filled with the sounds of music and laughter as almost 100 staff and students raced between stations in the hopes of having the fastest overall time. Stations were designed to offer fun, anatomy-based activities that covered embryology, histology, osteology/anthropology, as well as gross anatomy. There was great support from the Faculty of Health Sciences in the form of

prizes, refreshments, music, and even presenters from the local TUKS FM interviewing the organisers and participants. Special thanks to Dr Lané Prigge and Dr Gerda Venter, as well as all the organisers and participants for making the day such a special experience.

**#UPWAD2022 #LifeChangers
#uphealthsciences #HSUP**

Conferences

Several staff members and their students attended the 49th Annual ASSA Conference and presented a number of oral papers and poster presentations. Prof Ericka L'Abbe delivered an invited presentation titled: *'Beatings, Broken Bones, Bullet Holes and 3D prints: the evolution of bone trauma from the morgue to the virtual world/space'* at the 74th Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Forensic Science held in Seattle, Washington, US. A variety of oral and poster presentations from staff and students were also presented.



Workshops

The Forensic Anthropology Research Centre (FARC) in partnership with the Human Variation and Identification Research Unit (HVIRU), School of Anatomical Sciences, University of the Witwatersrand held a two-day Forensic Archaeology workshop at the University of the Witwatersrand as part of the EU Dirisana+ grant. Mr Okuhle Sapo and Dr Anja Meyer were the coordinators of this workshop that was held on the 10 and 11 March 2022. It was a hybrid workshop with the lectures shared

through Microsoft teams on the first day and a practical component on the second day where the participants excavated the mock graves and documented the contents.

Dr Alison Ridel was invited to the University of Namibia to lead a workshop for staff and medical doctors on 3D imaging and 3D printing technology. The workshop provided the UNAM team with trainings on 3D surface scanning using the Einscan H, as well as 3D segmentation and 3D mesh rendering from various types of modalities.



Participants of the workshop practicing their excavation skills.



Dr Charlotte Theye, Ms Miksha Harripershad and Dr Alison Ridel presented a workshop on 3D imaging using Avizo software at the University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, South Africa in March 2022. The workshop addressed all aspects of Avizo including segmentation, landmarking, image alignment and mesh creation.

In August 2022 Prof Kyra Stull and Dr Alison Ridel presented a workshop titled 'Introduction to R and Geometric Morphometric Methods (GMM)'. The participants were introduced to basic statistical analyses and coding in R.



Exciting projects

A virtual repository

Bakeng se Afrika, the brainchild of Professor Anna C. Oettlé from Sefako Makgatho Health Sciences University and Prof Ericka N. L'Abbé from the Forensic Anthropology Research Centre at the University of Pretoria, brought together three South African higher education institutions (University of Pretoria, Sefako Makgatho Health Sciences University, Stellenbosch University), the South African Nuclear Energy Corporation, and four European institutions (Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique, Université de Bordeaux, Universidade de Coimbra, Katholieke Universiteit Leuven). The consortium was awarded a Capacity Building Grant in Higher Education (Erasmus+) from the European Union in 2018, the project kicked off in 2019 and ended in 2022. The outcome of the Bakeng se Afrika project is the establishment of a digital repository of skeletal images available for use in research and teaching. Though the digital repository will be available for use for researchers both nationally and internationally,

the project functions under strict ethical guidelines and research projects will require ethical approval from institutional committees before being granted access to the repository. The repository is based on skeletal material curated in three South African osteological collections: the Pretoria Bone Collection (Department of Anatomy, University of Pretoria); the Human Bone Collection (Department of Anatomy and Histology, Sefako Makgatho Health Sciences University); and the Kirsten Skeletal Collection (Division of Anatomy and Histology, Stellenbosch University). As of November 2022, approximately 2600 bones, or sets of bones, have been collected and/or performed. This represents more than 3400 scans or 37 terabytes of data. Scans of bones presenting traumatic injuries (ballistic, blunt force, etc.) or specific pathologies (osteopetrosis, porotic hyperostosis, cribra orbitalia, etc.) might also be available in the future, but access will be submitted to specific requirements.

Leandi Liebenberg

University of Pretoria

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

HAP kicked off their 2022 academic year with an annual awards function for the Top Achievers in Human Anatomy and Physiology for the 2021 academic year. This awards function was well received by the students, who were able to celebrate their achievements by receiving certificates and Exclusive Books vouchers.

Community Engagement

Community Engagement is one of the ethical foundations of the vision, mission and values of the University of Johannesburg; this year HAP embarked on two community engagement projects. In the first semester, HAP collaborated with the institutional community engagement

team to collect non-perishable food items, clothing, blankets and sanitary products for the flood victims of KwaZulu-Natal. In the second semester, HAP ran a book-drive, within the Faculty of Health Sciences, for books, games and puzzles to create a library for patients at the paediatric ward of Charlotte Maxeke Johannesburg Academic Hospital.

Outstanding Achievements

Prof Shahed Nalla has been chosen as a Fellow for the ISEP AHEA Academy. Join us in congratulating him on this great achievement!

Asma Shaikh-Kader, a Physiologist within HAP, graduated with her doctorate from the

University of Johannesburg in May 2022 - we are extremely proud of you, Dr Shaikh-Kader!



HAP Awardees for 2021



Community Engagement: Sundika Ishwarkumar; Nicolene Jooste; Pietro de Lange-Jacobs; Erna Bruwer; Pilani Nkomozepe and Moliehi Mothae (From left to right)

Conference/Webinars Attendance

Dr. Nicolene Jooste and Ms. Sundika Ishwarkumar presented at the 49th Annual Conference of the Anatomical Society of Southern Africa (ASSA) held in April 2022. Dr. Nicolene Jooste presented an oral presentation entitled, "Does mathematical complexity of adult age-at-death estimation using multiple skeletal indicators improve results". Ms. Sundika Ishwarkumar won the SV Naidoo Award for Best Poster presentation, which was entitled, "Hyoid Bone: A morphometric and morphological analysis in the Black South African population of KwaZulu-Natal".

Prof. Shahed Nalla co-chaired two symposia with Dr. Torres-Tamayo at the 20th Congress International Federation of Associations of Anatomists (IFAA) 2022 in Istanbul, Türkiye. The sessions were entitled, "Part to part, part to whole: fitting the pelvis into the evolutionary puzzle of the human body" and "Methodologies in Applied Anatomy: Clinical, Forensic, and Evolutionary Anatomy". Dr. Nicolene Jooste and Ms. Sundika Ishwarkumar also presented a talk on "A biological perspective on evolving mathematical methodologies" in the "Methodologies in Applied Anatomy: Clinical, Forensic, and Evolutionary Anatomy" session.

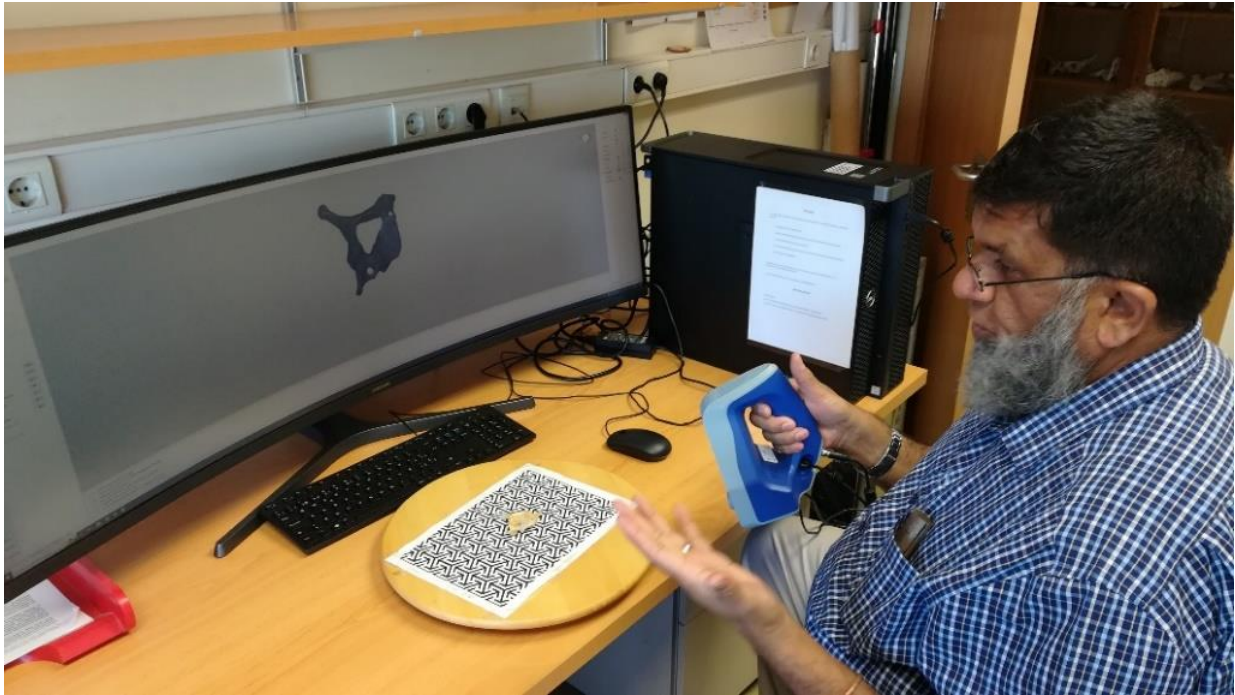
International travel

Prof. Shahed Nalla visited Spain and Türkiye in June and July 2022 for collaborative research. In Madrid, he attended a 3-day "training workshop", where he had the opportunity to scan osteology specimens using the hands-on 3D-scanner, and the subsequent analysis of these scanned specimens. One of the highlights of his trip was visiting to the museum that houses wax and plastic models of human systems and regions. Thereafter, Prof. Shahed Nalla travelled to Bursa in Türkiye to initiate new collaborative research projects between the University of Johannesburg and University of Valencia in the fields of statistical shape analysis and morphometric studies of modern and historical skeletons.

New staff members

HAP welcomed, Mr. Thandazile Juwele, an assistant lecturer in Physiology, and we look forward to his contribution to our department

Sundika Ishwarkumar
University of Johannesburg



Shahed Nalla 3D scanning a cervical vertebra with the handheld Artec scanner

Department of Human Anatomy and Physiology

CHILDRENS BOOK DONATION DRIVE

5-17 October 2022

For children aged between birth and 16 years old

All new or pre-loved items are welcome

Drop off books, puzzles or board games in the plastic containers located outside the Department of Human Anatomy and Physiology at 2304 John Orr Building, Doornfontein Campus.

BOOKS:
To create a Paediatric Ward Library at the Charlotte Maxeke Hospital

BETTER:
To provide comfort and emotional support for children in a stressful environment

BRIGHTEST:
To stimulate and enhance intellectual growth



Book Drive at the Department of Human Anatomy and Physiology (Pietro de Lange-Jacobs and Joao Paulo Coimbra sorting the books)

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

Welcome

Cassandra Creamer is a newly appointed lecturer in the department of Clinical Anatomy, School of Laboratory Medicine and Medical Sciences. She completed her Master of Medical Science degree (Anatomy) in 2020 which focused on the perceptions of the Coloured population towards whole-body donation in the eThekweni region of KZN and is currently working towards her PhD. Cassandra has been part of the Clinical Anatomy department since 2012, being a student and employee of the unit. She has served as an academic mentor, demonstrator and Ad-Hoc lecturer. Cassandra displays a positive and jovial attitude towards life, finding immense passion in the teaching and learning of anatomy. She hopes that through her research, she is able to make impactful and valuable contributions to the

institution and greater community. Cassandra is a member of the Anatomical Society of Southern Africa and Golden Key International Honour Society.

The 3rd year B Medical Science students at UKZN enrolled in the research project module undertook various research initiatives in the discipline.

The students were tasked with a dissection, write up, an anatomy art component and an oral presentation. All our students excelled and we would like to showcase

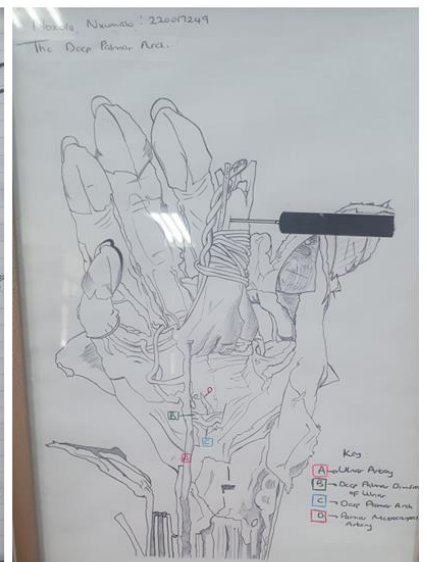
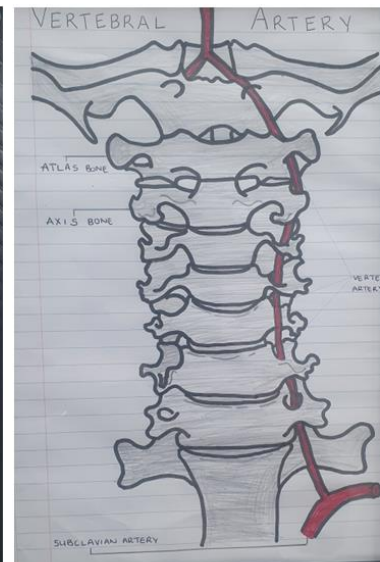
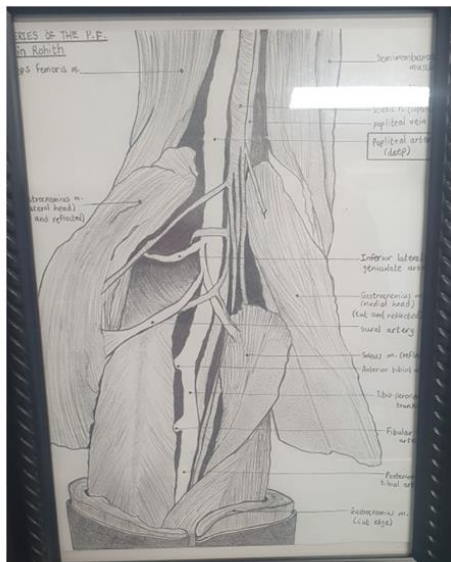
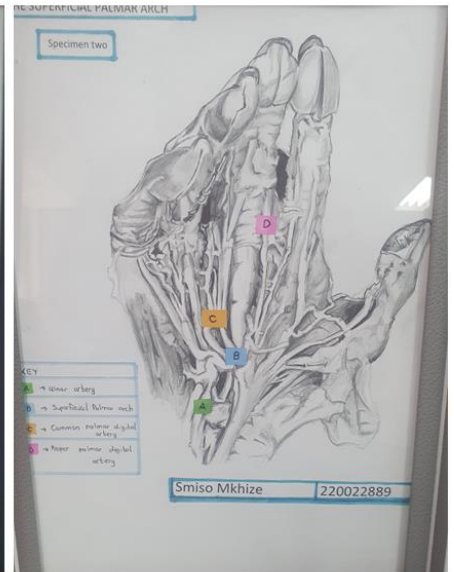
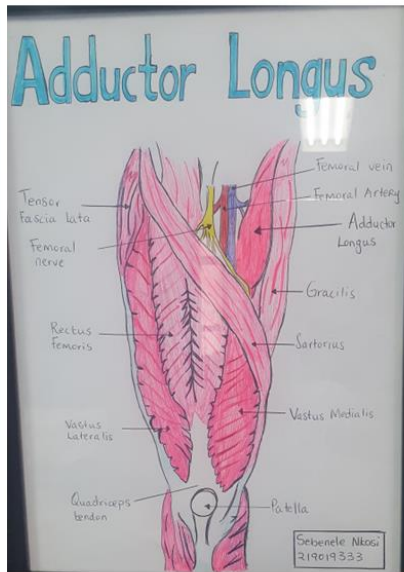
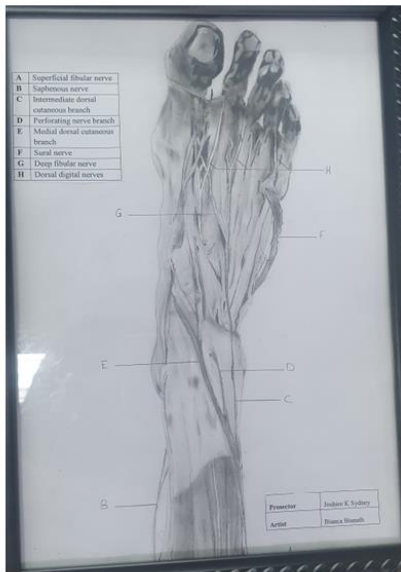
Some of their Anatomy art.

Dr Pamela Pillay

University of Kwazulu-Natal



Class of 2022 together with Anatomy supervisors



University of the Free State: Department of Basic Medical Sciences

Staff matters

The Department sadly had to say goodbye to former colleagues, Mr Alké Gouws and Dr Tonie Gerber, who passed away during the year. Their legacy at the UFS is deeply felt by those who had the privilege to work with them. There were several staff changes during the year. On the anatomy side, two new colleagues were welcomed – Ms Rethabile Masiu in the position of lecturer, and Mr Ezra Anirudh in the position of professional officer.

Graduations

Three students from the Anatomy Honours programme graduated in April: Ms Kelebogile Masunyane, Ms Daniëlle van der Merwe, and Mr Mojalefa Nkoi. Daniëlle was awarded the Faculty of Health Sciences Dean's Medal for the 2021 honours student that obtained the best results in the Faculty, making this the second year in a row that an anatomy student has taken this honour! Both Daniëlle and Mojalefa remain associated with the Department, as Masters student/ research assistant and workshop technician, respectively. Our Head of Department, Dr Sanet van Zyl, also graduated in April, adding a PhD in Community Health to the MBChB she already obtained in 1989. Her thesis is entitled "Chronic Diseases of Lifestyle: A Risk Assessment and Health Promotion Framework for a Rural and Urban Primary Health Care Setting in the Free State Province".

Conferences & other presentations

Ms Rethabile Masiu represented the UFS at the 49th Annual Conference of the Anatomical Society of Southern Africa (ASSA), with her poster presentation "The Association between Skeletal Lesions and Tuberculosis in a South African Sample". With the conference being broadcast online, many staff and students could attend in support of our new colleague.

The UFS was also well represented during the art exhibition which formed part of the ASSA World Anatomy Day online symposium. Nineteen UFS artworks made by students in the BSc, Medical and Nursing programmes were displayed – ranging from board games to stitch craft to 3D models of anatomical structures.

Several staff members participated in the UFS Faculty of Health Sciences Research Forum, held annually to showcase research being performed in the faculty. Dr Petra Maass completed her term as Chairperson of the Student Forum of the Three Schools of Medicine, while Mr Ezra Anirudh and Dr Claudia Ntsapi presented laboratory papers, Dr Sanet van Zyl presented a clinical paper, and Drs Arnelle Mostert and Roné Vorster De Wet presented educational papers. Additionally, several of these staff members have been selected as adjudicators for next year's forum.



Graduates from the Department of Basic Medical Sciences – Honours students Ms Daniëlle van der Merwe, and Mr Mojalefa Nkoi, and Head of Department Dr Sanet van Zyl.



A small selection of the 127 submissions to the World Anatomy Day art competition.

World Anatomy Day art competition

In celebration of World Anatomy Day 2022, students from the BSc, Nursing and Medical programmes were challenged to create anatomy artworks of their own design and choice of medium. Over 120 contributions were received, and were on display in the Faculty during the week leading up to World Anatomy Day on 15 October. The week culminated in the judging panel, consisting of Ms Shivani Govender, Ms Sadhna Singh, Dr Petra Maass and Dr Arnelle Mostert, having the challenging task of choosing a winner. By far, the obvious choice was the incredibly unique chocolate and cappuccino cake moulded into the shape of a skull, which was submitted by nursing student Salomien Cloete. Second prize was awarded to the stunningly detailed acrylic representation of the osteology of the hand, which was submitted by nursing student Jenna Faber. These

students each received a prize sponsored by Elsevier, while all 45 submissions scoring over 80% in the competition received UFS merchandise as reward for their efforts.

Medical programme

This year saw a new group of first year students join the UFS MBChB programme, and they were welcomed into the Faculty at the annual White Coat Ceremony. Several BMS staff members joined in the celebrations where students could put on their white clinical coats embroidered with their names for the first time. Only a few months later, these students were welcomed into the dissection modules during the Dissection Hall service, dedicated to introducing students to the next step of their training and commemorating the individuals who have donated their bodies to the programme.



First year medical students at the White Coat Ceremony, on their way to the dissection hall for the first time, and being shown how to care for their cadavers during the dissection programme.

Workshops presented

The Department again hosted the annual “Introduction to Osteology” and “Forensic Archaeology Theory and Practice” workshops run by Dr Petra Maass, this year using an “each one teach one” approach where second year students from the Forensic Sciences programme had to teach their peers basic osteology, followed by excavation of a mystery skeletal case.

Two collaborative workshops with clinicians were hosted in the department this year. In May, the Department of Orthopaedic Surgery hosted a workshop on knee replacement surgery techniques. In August, a workshop on echocardiography was presented to help clinical registrars integrate their knowledge of the anatomy of the heart with imaging thereof.



Anthropology staff and postgraduate students interacting with Forensic Science students during the annual forensic archaeology workshops.



Integrated clinical and basic anatomy workshops hosted in collaboration with the Departments of Orthopaedics Surgery and Cardiology.

Community & social events

As has become customary, the Department participated in the Crazy Socks 4 Docs Day. Staff and students from all anatomy classes in the Department joined in wearing colourful and funny socks to help raise awareness of the mental health issues challenging health care workers. The collated photos were on display in the Faculty foyer during the week leading to 3 June.

The Eskom Expo for Young Scientists regional competition was held at the Central University of Technology (CUT) in Bloemfontein during July. The competition aims to give high school pupils the opportunity to perform their own research projects and compete against other schools for excellent prizes. This year, Drs Roné Vorster De Wet and Petra Maass served

as adjudicators, while Ms Yolani Benadé and Mr Ezra Anirudh served as adjudicators and convenors for biomedical and geographical sciences, respectively.

In celebration of Heritage Day on 24 September, staff were asked to dress in traditional clothing and bring foods representing their cultural heritage to share. The diversity of the department was in full display in both the coloured garments and the vast spread of foods such as rich, tasty soji and fresh, warm boerewors rolls.

**Compiled by Petra Maass;
Photos by Sanet van Zyl
Ezra Anirudh, Arishka Kalicharan, Mojalefa
Nkoi**



Staff and student from all anatomy courses in the Department, sporting their crazy socks to raise awareness of mental health challenges facing health care practitioners.



Colourful and tasty celebrations of Heritage Day 2022 – sharing lots of food and a few laughs.

University of Cape Town: Department of Human Biology

Department of Human Biology, University of Cape Town welcomes Dr Tanya Calvey to the Division of Clinical Anatomy and Biological Anthropology.



Dr Tanya Calvey

Dr Tanya Calvey joined the Department of Human Biology at the University of Cape Town in October 2022 and is a Senior Lecturer in the Division of Clinical Anatomy and Biological Anthropology (CABA). Tanya has a Ph.D. in neuroanatomy from the lab of Prof Paul Manger at the University of the Witwatersrand. Tanya has 10 years of experience demonstrating cadaveric anatomy and lecturing clinical anatomy to undergraduate and postgraduate health science students including 2nd, 3rd and 4th year medical, honours in neuroscience and master's in neuroanatomy students as well as psychiatric registrars. Tanya's area of research includes translational neuropsychopharmacology and addiction medicine and has published 12 papers in high-impact journals such as Neuroscience,

Frontiers in Psychiatry and Drug and Alcohol Dependence. She integrates human neuroimaging, molecular biology and neurohistology findings from her international, multidisciplinary research team to guide her work in the field of drug treatment and prevention policy. Tanya is a founding member of the Network of Early Career Professionals working in Addiction Medicine which is a registered NGO in Germany and sub-group of the World Health Organisation (WHO). A recent highlight of her career was being invited to present at the WHO Forum on Alcohol, Drugs and Addictive Behaviours that took place in June 2021.

The 49th Annual Conference of the Anatomical Society of Southern Africa

Earlier in April this year, a few of our postgraduate students participated at the 49th annual conference of the Anatomical Society of Southern Africa and for all it was for the first time they get an opportunity to present their work at a conference.

Ms. Mbalentle Madolo presented the results from her Honours research titled: Variations in the morphology of human lungs in terms of lobes and fissures. She's grateful for the unwavering support from her supervisors Dr. Kentse Mpolokeng and Assoc/Prof. Geney Gunston that she was able to deliver a successful presentation. She is also extremely grateful to have had dedicated academics and researchers in the anatomy field to see her work in this platform. She describes this opportunity to have given her insurmountable confidence not only in herself as an individual but also as a researcher. Additionally, she was awarded the

ASSA Award for *the best oral presentation by a young researcher* and *2nd runner-up award for the Antoinette Kotzé for the best oral presentation by a first-time presenter*.

Ms. Leoné Pretorious also had a privilege to present her work in the oral presentation slot, presenting her Honours results research results for the project titled: Anatomical variations of hepatic veins in a cadaver sample – A South African perspective. Her amazing presentation also allowed her to receive an award for: *best oral presentation by a first-time presenter Antoinette Kotze Award*. This work was accepted for publication in the European Journal of Anatomy.

<https://doi.org/10.52083/UHPV1823>

The Department of Human Biology biannual Research day

Department of Human Biology (HUB) at the Faculty of Health Sciences recently hosted its biannual research day on 7th September 2022. Several students and staff members participated and presented their research and among them were also members from the Division of Clinical Anatomy and Biological Anthropology.

Chelsey Voegt, an MSc student presented the results from her honours research, which was under supervision of Associate Professors Victoria Gibbon and Geney Gunston in the oral session. The presentation was titled “Bilateral hip dysplasia in a South African individual from the 17th to 19th century”. The format was a case study that focused on applying the Bioarchaeology of Care framework to an individual from the UCT skeletal repository. She showcased the value of applying this framework to a South African individual to understand the pathological condition they were faced with and to further understand their lived disease experience in colonial South Africa. She views being a presenter was an exciting opportunity, allowing her to present her own research whilst providing the opportunity to immerse herself in other research in the

Department. In 2023, she has been invited to the Annual Medusa Conference, hosted in Toronto, to present some findings from her MSc research, under the supervision of Associate Professor Victoria Gibbon and Dr Elizabeth Dinkle, titled “Sex and life stage as risk factors for injury in South African medicolegal death investigations”. This research stems from her interdisciplinary interests in the health, forensics, and justice fields.

Daniël Kotze, an MSc (biological anthropology) student had the honour of attending and presenting at the Department of Human Biology Research Day, 2022 and was very excited to share the findings of his honours research, titled *Application of the bioarchaeology of care framework: A case study from Northern Cape, South Africa*.

This work involves the diagnosis of numerous and relatively rare cranial pathological conditions from the skeletal remains of an individual from 19th century Northern Cape, South Africa. It also represents one of the first studies to apply the bioarchaeology of care framework to a South African individual to assess the experience of pathology and caregiving behaviour in the past. The next step entails publication of this research as he believes it will make an important contribution to the fields of bioarchaeology and palaeopathology. Daniël was awarded first prize for the best poster presentation. This achievement would not have been possible without the overwhelming support from his supervisors and fellow postgraduate students in the Division of Clinical Anatomy and Biological Anthropology. It is incredible to be part of such an amazing team of scientists that encourages the growth and development of its members. The symposium allowed him to engage with other students in the department and experience the diversity of incredible work conducted across the divisions. He looks forward to attending again in the future and encourage other students to participate as it provides an invaluable platform for networking and stimulating new and interdisciplinary research ideas.

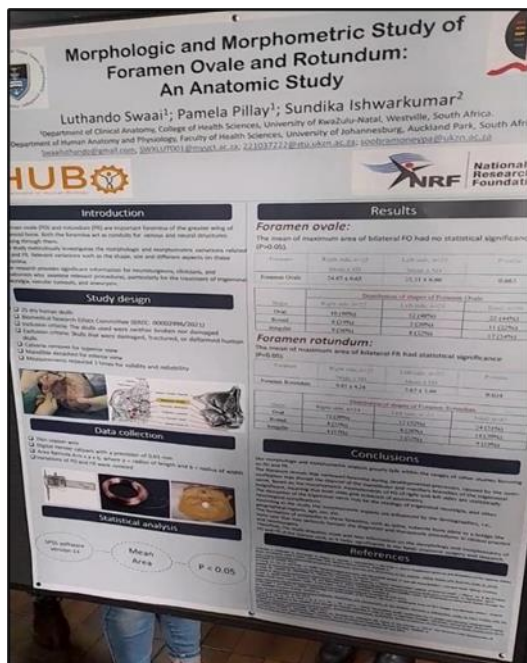


Chelsey Voegt at the 2022 Department of Human Biology Research Day.



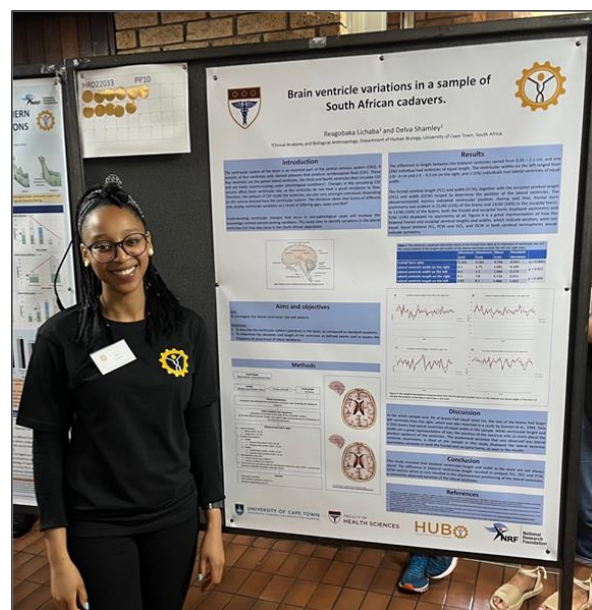
Daniel Kotze presented his honours research at the Department of Human Biology Research Day and was awarded first prize for the best poster presentation.

Luthando Swaai, an MSc. Student in Anatomy also presented a poster of his Honours research project titled: “Morphological and morphometrical study of foramen ovale and rotundum” and this research was done while he was a student at the University of KwaZulu Natal. This research study was performed using dry human skulls and provides significant information for the neurosurgeons, clinicians and anatomists who conduct clinical procedures particularly for the treatment of trigeminal neuralgia, vascular tumours and aneurysms.



Reagobaka Lichaba, also an MSc student in Anatomy, presented the results from her honours project supervised by Assoc. Prof. Delva Shamley, titled “Brain ventricle variations

in a sample of South African cadavers”, which she explains was an appreciable experience and a first of many. She thoroughly enjoyed seeing the research that is carried out in the Human Biology Department at UCT, and the significant contributions that are made in the medical science industry. Being part of those researchers was both an honour and a privilege. She looks forward to participating in more opportunities such as the HUB Research Day, as they will afford her the prospect of growing her knowledge of current research. “Additionally, I can put myself as a researcher and my work out there. It was truly a wonderful experience”.



Ms. Reagobaka Lichaba at the HUB Research Day.

While some members of CABA formed part of the organizing committee for this great event.



Left photo: Members of CABA formed part of the HUB Research Day organizing committee. Back from left to right: Mbali Madolo, Victoria Gibbon, Chelsey Voegt, Jessica Garlick. Front: Amalia Awala, Marischka Ford and Reagobaka Lichaba. Right photo: Kentse Mpolokeng and Marischka Ford. Other members of CABA who formed part of the HUB Research Day organizing committee are: Jeshika Luckrajh, Geney Gunston (not in pictures).

Marischka Ford, presented the results of her honours research supervised by Dr. Adhil Bhagwandin and Prof. Steven Roche titled: Anatomical assessment of coracobrachialis, the shorthead of biceps brachii, pectoralis major and anterior deltoid: an observational morphometric study, at the South African Orthopedics Association Congress on 6th September 2022, at the Cape Town Convention Centre.



Kentse Mpolokeng participates in the Anatomical Education Research Institute workshop

The Anatomical Education Research Institute (AERI) hosted an intensive four-day conference at the Indiana University in Bloomington (USA) on the 11-14 July 2022. Kentse was privileged to have been selected among other applicants to join the 50 academics to participate in this program.



Kentse on the first day of the #2022 AERI at the Indiana University in Bloomington, Indiana.

AERI is an initiative by the members of the American Association of Anatomists and has partner leaders in STEM and medical education research with mentees interested in improving their teaching and educational research skills. The program is designed such that the participants actively engages in evidence-based teaching pedagogies, assessments, and educational research/inquiry. In addition, AERI provides significant face-to-face time and opportunities for discussion, collaboration, and networking among participants and field leaders. AERI has been specifically designed for individuals who have very little or no experience with educational research, but who are deeply invested in moving in that direction.

PhD graduates in the Division of Clinical Anatomy and Biological Anthropology

Elizabeth Dinkele and Kentse Mpolokeng graduated for their PhD degrees in the University's walk of celebration graduation ceremony that was held on the 29th of March 2022. Elizabeth Dinkele graduated with a PhD in Biological Anthropology under the supervision of Associate Professor V. Gibbon and Dr R. Ballo. Her thesis focuses on the risk factors, and the beliefs, perceptions and experiences of Mseleni joint disease (MJD) which is geographically localised to Kwa-Zulu Natal, South Africa. She completed a

postdoctoral fellowship in Bioarcheology with a focus on San and Khoekhoe people from the Later Stone Age in southern Africa. She has presented her research on MJD in the form of podium presentations as the American Association of Biological Anthropology and Canadian Association of Physical Anthropology.

Kentse Mpolokeng graduated with a PhD in Anatomy under supervision of Emeritus Professor Graham Louw and emeritus Associate Professor Elizabeth van der Merwe with her thesis titled Variations in arterial supply via the external and internal carotid arteries to the bony orbit and eyeball in full-term fetuses, infants, children, adolescents, and adults – A South African perspective. Kentse was featured on the graduation walk video to share what this achievement meant for her, see the link:

<https://www.news.uct.ac.za/news/graduation/2022/march/-article/2022-04-08-ucts-graduation-walk-of-celebration>.

She presented part of her PhD work in the oral sessions of Anatomical Society Winter meeting that was held in Dublin on the 4th to 6th July and the Department of Human Biology Research Day.



PhD graduation at the University of Cape Town. Dr Kentse Mpolokeng (right) Dr Elizabeth Dinkele (centre) were photographed with Dr Robea Ballo (centre) and Professor Graham Louw (left)



On the left, Kentse is presenting at the biannual Department of Human Biology (HUB) Research Day and on the right, at the Anatomical Society winter meeting in Dublin.

Faculty of Health Sciences
#FUTUREUCTGRADUATE DAY: 8 October
2022

With the annual UCT Open Day in April being an online event, there was great enthusiasm about the opportunity to welcome applicants for Health Sciences undergraduate programmes onto campus on 8 October.

After presentations by the Vice Chancellor, Dean, Deputy Dean, and Health Sciences Student Council Chairperson, Programme Conveners interviewed current students about their experience. Students were asked what it was like being a first-year student, what challenges were experienced and how were they managed, what was most enjoyable about their programme in Health Sciences, and what advice they would give to the first-year students of 2023.

Thereafter, students were taken on campus tours by the FHS peer mentors. Tours included a visit to the Clinical Skills Training Lab, Library, stalls managed by the Admissions team, Student funding staff, Residences staff, and members of Student Societies.

Each undergraduate programme – Communication Sciences and Disorders, Medicine, Occupational therapy, and Physiotherapy – welcomed applicants and their families at stations set up for programme information engagements.

Dr. Adhil Bhagwandin and A/Prof. Geney Gunston represented the Division of Clinical Anatomy and Biological Anthropology at the medicine station, engaging curious and excited visitors in discussions about the anatomical models and plastic skeletons on display, as well as the academic structure of the medical programme.

Kentse Mpolokeng

2022 FAIG Session

For this year's ASSA conference, the Forensic Anthropology Interest Group (FAIG) session was convened by A/Prof Victoria Gibbon

(University of Cape Town) and Dr Kathryn Smith (Stellenbosch University), who are currently collaborating on a pilot research project called Western Cape Cold Case Consortium (W4C) based on multi-factorial analysis for postmortem forensic identification, in collaboration with the City of Cape Town and the Cape Higher Education Consortium (CHEC). The FAIG 2022 session was entitled "Post-mortem Forensic identification: identifying challenges, solutions and innovations".

Grounded by recent research in this field, this session aimed to engage stakeholders at all levels of this work in the interests of fostering positive academic exchange to strengthen both science and service delivery through innovative solutions. Prior to the event, FAIG members and invited stakeholders were surveyed to identify key challenges experienced in postmortem forensic identification. Responses enabled the formulation of three key topics, namely *Day to Day Collaboration and Cooperation; The Need For A Centralized Identification Database – But How?;* and *Harnessing New Technologies and Methods in Low Resourced Contexts.*

The objective was to gather solution-minded approaches using a breakout group method, with each group comprising academic researchers, practitioners, service providers and postgraduate students of varying levels of experience and seniority from the fields of forensic anthropology and pathology, forensic sciences, forensic facial imaging, Forensic Pathology services, the South African Police Service's Victim Identification Centre, the International Commission for the Red Cross and others.

The breakout rooms method was effective, creating space for frank and robust conversation within smaller groups and across disciplines and work contexts. After each breakout session, spokespersons for each group then brought back overall comments to a broader discussion.

The responses from the engagement are enlightening, evidencing common experiences and challenges nationally, and offering ground-up solutions to some of the most persistent

issues for practitioners in the forensic identification space across academia as well as within local and national authorities. The most pressing need which emerged is for more opportunities such as this, where conversation across siloed work contexts was enabled and facilitated. Time permitting, we aim to produce

the responses into some form of output. Thank you to ASSA for providing the platform, and for all the participants for such a wonderful enriching experience.

Victoria Gibbon & Kathryn Smith



Questions received broadly echoed 3 key themes

DAY-TO-DAY
COLLABORATION
AND
CO-OPERATION

THE NEED FOR A
CENTRALISED
IDENTIFICATION
DATABASE - BUT
HOW?

HARNESSING NEW
TECHNOLOGIES &
METHODS IN LOW-
RESOURCED
CONTEXTS



2022 training mortuary and undertakers in the province on post-mortem finger printing & photography, Improving post-mortem identification in Cape Town and the Western Cape

The Western Cape Cold Case Consortium (W4C) are a group of academics representing various fields of expertise in forensic postmortem identification (forensic anthropology, pathology and genetics, stable isotope analysis and forensic facial imaging) who have come together with the common goal to improve identification of the deceased in the province. We are in the process of concluding a pilot project involving a collaboration between researchers and practitioners at the University of Cape Town and Stellenbosch University focusing on five complex identification cases in the context of identification procedures and workflows.

One aspect of our focus is to identify challenges hindering identification from the ground up. Two critical themes emerged from grounded research and conversations with service providers: the quality of postmortem facial photography is very poor, and fingerprinting skills are inconsistent, especially on compromised tissues. Another aspect which emerged from discussions with city partners and forensic services was the lack of support for the identification of unknown decedents who

do not enter the Forensic Pathology Services system, but instead become the responsibility of the city's undertaking service who is contracted to conduct indigent pauper burials.

In response, Dr. Kathryn Smith (Stellenbosch University) and A/Prof Victoria Gibbon (University of Cape Town) of W4C initiated a comprehensive training and knowledge-sharing session for forensic officers and undertakers in the Western Cape Province over 12 and 13 July, 2022, hosted at UCT and reaching over 60 service providers. This was done in partnership with the CHEC-City of Cape Town Regional Development Fund and Forensic Pathology Services Western Cape & Gauteng with sponsorship from the International Commission from the Red Cross.

The programme was facilitated by expert forensic practitioners working across FPS including Wilhelm Fouche (FPS Gauteng) and Rudolph van der Berg (FPS Western Cape) who facilitated basic and advanced fingerprinting training, and Dr Kathryn Smith and Pearl Mamathuba (VIZ.Lab, Stellenbosch University) provided training in postmortem facial photography in the context of the underutilisation of forensic facial imaging

methods (facial reconstruction and photo enhancement) for identification in complex cases.

We took a holistic approach to post-mortem identification in the context of current South African legislation and local innovation, and focused on an integrated understanding of the role of fingerprinting and photography as complementary biometric and visual identification methods. Theory & discussion sessions each morning was paired with hands-on practical training each afternoon, and concluding with a reflection session and lucky draw sponsored by Forensic Tools.

Participant feedback revealed the enormous interest in, and pressing need for, similar knowledge-sharing and networking sessions like this in future. As with the FAIG workshop, participants were especially appreciative of the space to openly discuss practical challenges and propose solutions. The sessions also created awareness of expertise and consultation available to city service providers and provincial and national authorities within academic contexts to assist them in their work. We thank the postgraduate student volunteers and sponsors who made these sessions possible.

Kathryn Smith & Victoria Gibbon



University of Stellenbosch: Division of Clinical Anatomy

Appointment of new lecturers

Mr Keegan Meiring

Keegan Meiring was appointed as a lecturer within the Division of Clinical Anatomy as of October 2022. He holds a Master's in Biological Anthropology from the University of the Witwatersrand wherein he also held several teaching roles between 2015 and 2019. On completion of his MSc, he took a three-year hiatus from academia and worked in the corporate finance sector as a financial literacy consultant. With his return to the sciences, he looks undertake research in the field of Victim Identification and build collaborations with entities such as the Forensic Pathology Services, South African Police Services, The International Committee of the Red Cross, and Interpol.



Mrs Jodie Layman-Lemphane

Mrs Jodie Layman-Lemphane was also appointed as a lecturer in the second semester. Mrs Layman-Lemphane was previously employed as a member of the technical staff and the coordinator of the body donation programme.



We welcome both Mr Meiring and Mrs Layman-Lemphane and wish them all of the best in their academic careers.

Summary of trips made by the Division of Clinical Anatomy's Bakeng se Afrika members in 2022

The year 2022 has been a very eventful year for the Bakeng se Afrika (BsA) members from Stellenbosch University (SU). Finally, after two long years of COVID-related travel restrictions we were able to resume travel mobilities set out for the BsA project, funded by Erasmus+ European Union programme and Dirisana+.

Chantelle Marais, Kim von Dewitz and Megan Calitz set off for Johannesburg on Monday,

March 7th, to attend a few workshops and lectures as part of the Dirisana+ Interim Meeting II, hosted by the University of Witwatersrand (WITS) from 7th to 11th of March. On their first day the students attended a 3D Imaging workshop presented by Ms Miksha Harripershad, Ms Charlotte Theye and Dr Alison Ridel. The presenters took the participants through a step-by-step demonstration of how to analyse a micro-CT scanned tooth using the Avizo software. Participants were given the opportunity to segment themselves the tooth and thus virtually isolate the different parts of the tooth (i.e. enamel, pulp, dentin), and finally do some mock measurements. Furthermore, Dr Ridel explained how the final product would be processed to be 3D printed. The following day Meg-Kyla Erasmus (BsA Junior Project Coordinator, UP) was kind enough to treat the SU team with an outing to the South African Nuclear Energy Corporation (Necsa). The students got a bit of a "behind the scenes" look at how skeletal material is scanned using a micro-CT scanner. They were also shown what the segmentation and reconstruction process of the scans entail. Then the students attended the Forensic Archaeology Workshops, presented by Dr Anya Meyer from the Human Variation and Identification Research Unit (HVIRU, University of the Witwatersrand) and Mr Okuhle Sapo from the Forensic Anthropology Research Centre (Department of Anatomy, University of Pretoria). On the 10th of March, the students attended half-day lectures covering the basic archaeological principles

and techniques (such as the use of GPR) that are used to locate and excavate human remains, specifically in the medico-legal setting. They were also presented a lecture on the documentation of evidence and report writing. It was then time for the participants to get their hands dirty with a full day of fieldwork on the 11th of March! Participants were split into groups of three or four and tasked, thanks to their newfound knowledge of the previous day's lectures, to locate, excavate and document a mock grave. This was done by doing a line survey of the field to flag abnormalities and to locate the potential grave. After determining where the bones were buried, an excavation grid was set up for each grave and they started digging! A large portion of the day was spent excavating the grave, until all bones were revealed. After this, they needed to document the positions of the body in the grave, take coordinates of the major body parts as well as the artefacts, and measure the bones. It was a really fun experience and definitely one of the highlights of their trip. (Disclaimer: all skeletal material pictured is plastic). When asked what the highlight of the trip was, Chantelle said the following "I would say the fieldwork day for the Forensic Archaeology workshop was quite memorable. We rarely get to do mock excavations, so it was fun to get that hand-on experience and to get our hands dirty. I think a personal highlight for me would also be the Necsa tour. I sent all my MSc samples to them for micro-CT scanning so it was really cool to see their facilities in-person."



Some pictures of the AVIZO workshop and the mock archaeological digs

After this trip, the SU BsA team (Chantelle Marais, Kim von Dewitz, Anna Beyers, Aimee Welmans and Dr Amanda Alblas) had the most wonderful privilege of being hosted by the University of Bordeaux in France between the 26th of June and the 4th of July. Prior to that, we had a wonderful three days exploring as much of Paris as humanly possible. During these three days, several anthropological sites were visited including The Paris Pantheon, The Paris Catacombs and Musee de L'Homme. For the team, it was a fascinating cultural experience comparing how anatomy and anthropology is portrayed in France in comparison to SA where we are exposed to places such as The Cradle of Mankind and The Iziko Museum. Of course, we actually went to France to learn, so the remainder of our stay in France was spent at the University of Bordeaux where we were hosted by Dr Yann Heuzé and Guillaume Gracia (MSc student). From the 26th of June till the 2nd of July 2022, the SU Bakeng team visited BsA partners of the PACEA laboratory

situated at the University of Bordeaux. We had the privilege of learning from Dr Heuzé, who gave us several lectures during our time there. The central theme of these lectures pertained to geometric morphometrics, as well as how to use imaging software and interpret results obtained with geometric morphometric related research data. We are so grateful for the knowledge transfer that took place during our visit to France and are extremely grateful that Dr Heuzé was willing to assist us in our understanding of geometric morphometrics. Although geometric morphometrics is nothing new in the field of anatomy, one of our take-home messages from these sessions was that it can still be a useful analysis tool to substantiate one's research, if used correctly. I'm sure that some of our future research studies at the University will encompass geometric morphometric analyses.



Some pictures from our visit to The University of Bordeaux

From the last week of August till the 9th of September, a few SU and University of Pretoria (UP) students had the opportunity to attend workshops on 'An Introduction to RStudio, R coding and geometric morphometrics' (hosted by Professor Kyra Stull and Dr Alison Ridel at UP) and a workshop on the stitching of long bone scans (hosted at the South African Nuclear Research Corporation (Necsa)). The latter workshop was hosted by Dr Lunga Bam and Kobus Hoffman, two Necsa employees who have been working tirelessly to digitise the skeletal collections of SU, UP and Sefako Makgatho Health Sciences University (SMU). A bit of technical background before we get into the workshop content. The skeletal material is scanned using a METRIS X-TEK XT H225L Rayons-X X-Ray scanner (pictured below). Once scanned, we obtain a set of 1000 two-dimensional (2D) radiographic projection images that needs to be transformed into a three-dimensional (3D) volume set. During the BsA project, smaller long bones (e.g., humeri and radii) were generally scanned in two parts (A and B), whilst larger long bones such as the femur were scanned in three parts (A, B and C).

During the workshop, we learned how to "stitch" these parts together and thus obtain one final merged scan for each long bone. Dr L. Bam and Mr J. Hoffman, with the help of Dr M. Cazenave, designed a protocol to perform these steps in a reproducible way. Day one of the workshop consisted of training on the VGStudio Max 2022.2 software, while day two focused on using another software, ImageJ. Two students, Thando and Aimee, stayed on an extra day and an extra 3 days, respectively, to continue and progress on the merging of humeri. Overall, the workshop was an insightful 'behind the scenes' experience of the BsA project. As a group, we would like to extend our appreciation to Dr Bam and Mr Hoffman for taking the time to share their knowledge with the next generation. We would also like to thank UP (Dr Charlotte Theye, Ms Pearl Bothma and Ms Meg-Kyla Erasmus) for arranging this opportunity for us. Personally, I am grateful to have stayed on an extra three days post-workshop, in order to practice these newly learnt skills. What seems a daunting process at first, becomes second nature of practice.



Some pictures of our visit to Necsa

Chantelle Marais and Dr Amanda Alblas then jetted off to Coimbra, Portugal from the 15th to the 23rd of September. The purpose of this visit was to be hosted by the University of Coimbra, another EU BsA partner, as well as to meet with Professor Eugenia Cuhna, the main BsA representative from the university. During their stay in Portugal, the SA members were also met by Professor Maria Teresa Ferreira (forensic anthropologist) and Ms Inez Sanchez, and were given a tour of the Department of Life Sciences, Laboratory of Forensic Anthropology. Here, they were shown the Collection of Identified Skeletons of the 21st Century. At the Kirsten Skeletal Collection (KSC) at SU, we have quite a number of bones that have not been processed properly during maceration or are still very oily (could be attributed to other factors, such as diet). Usually, we just use a fine liner or black koki to mark each bone with an AN number, but on the oily bones the ink starts to “spread” or “diffuse” into the bone after a while, causing it to become a blotchy, inky mess. We struggle to then see what the AN number is and need to touch up these number quite often. One take-home tip that Maria and

Inez gave us to prevent the ink from spreading like this on the oily bones, is to use nail polish. Nail polish would not harm the bones, and can be removed with cutex remover (if for example someone someday decides they don't like it and want to change it). So, what they do in Coimbra is they use either white or clear nail polish to paint a “base”, let that dry and then write the ID number on the bone. After this, they cover it off with a clear “top coat”. It looks very neat and uniform in their collection, and Maria said it lasts a long time. Chantelle Marais has taken to trying this newly learnt technique on a few AN skeletons from our KSC and the results came out pretty great. This is definitely something we hope to do in the whole collection, but would require funding. This trip to Portugal also sparked a few ideas for future research to be conducted, especially on the topic of taphonomy. This is the beneficial influence that radiates from these mobility trips and the networking that is thus conducted in the field of anatomy and forensic anthropology – the transfer of ideas, gaining new perspectives and the sparking of new concepts that require further research.

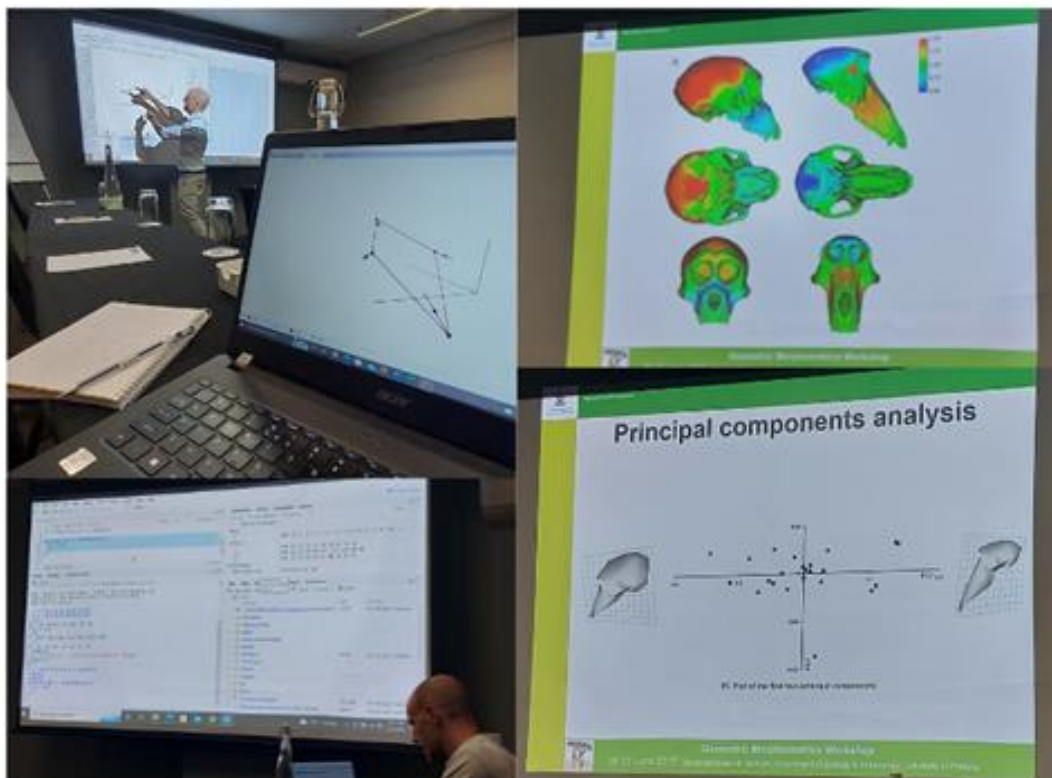


Some pictures of The University of Coimbra

And just like that, it was time for Chantelle Marais, Dr Amanda Alblas and Aimee Welmans to head back up to Pretoria for the BsA final meeting and PAST Statistics Workshop, respectively. These events took place from the 31st of October until the 4th of November and were hosted by the BsA team at SMU university. It was a lovely, yet busy week of final closure to the BsA project. The workshop proved very insightful as students gained a wealth of knowledge in the short time period from Dr Jason Hemingway. Students were taught how to perform as well as interpret statistics in PAST, how to set up and use a micro scribe and even a bit of R-coding. Overall, this has been a year filled with opportunities and knowledge transfer. We are grateful for the wealth of knowledge and

itinerary of new skills learnt through the BsA project, and we look forward to seeing how these new skills and techniques may be integrated into our universities and transferred to other students and staff members. We would just like to extend our deepest gratitude to the Erasmus+ European Union programme, to Dirisana+ and of course the Bakeng se Afrika project for making these learning experiences possible.

Aimee Welmans
Bakeng se Afrika Team
BARU (Biological Anthropology Research
Unit)
Division of Clinical Anatomy
Stellenbosch University



Some pictures from the PAST Statistics Workshop



The SU BsA members alongside some BARU (Biological Anthropology Research Unit) members. Pictured from left to right: Mr Keegan Meiring (BARU), Anna Beyers (BsA/ BARU), Chantelle Marais (BsA/BARU), Thom Kaledzera (BARU), Dr Amanda Alblas (BsA/BARU) and Aimee Welmans (BsA/BARU). In absentia: Kim von De Witz (BsA/BARU)

University of the Witwatersrand: School of Anatomical Sciences

The School of Anatomical Sciences took part in the WITS 100 years parade, showcasing our banner and having fun in the celebrations. Some of the postgrads and staff got together to decorate the banner and made sure to mention that the school is 3 years older than the university.

Top: The School of Anatomical sciences banner (note the First-Born mention). Bottom left and right: Staff and postgraduate students.



WELCOME & FAREWELL

Amid much celebration of the 100 year anniversary of the University of the Witwatersrand, we bid farewell to our much loved colleagues and wish them well on their well deserved retirements: Mrs Cheryl Bove and Mrs Stella Modimoeng.



Mrs. Cheryl Bove
Senior Administrative Officer

Mrs Cheryl Bove started working at Wits University in 1998. The first three (3) years at Microbiology Department, then another 3 years at Photo Illustration (Graphics) Unit. She joined the School of Anatomical Sciences in 2004 as Administrative Secretary to the then Head of School, Prof John Maina. In October 2006, she became the Administrative Officer in the school to 31 October 2022, a total of 18 years in the School. Cheryl will always follow up her assignment with visits to the offices of the staff from whom she needs an information. That exemplary hard work, dedication, Interaction with staff made her visible in the school and it will be missed. She also went beyond the Call of Duty. Thanks Cheryl and Well Done!!! We wish you a fantastic Retirement.



Mrs. Stella Modimoeng
Administrative Assistant

Stella joined Wits University in 2008 at the Student Representative Council (SRC) Office, then to the Library, then moved to the School of Anatomical Sciences in April 2009. In addition to all other duties, Stella became the face of the School on the Body Donor Programme as she receives the calls from potential donors, assist with completion of the form. Some donors after speaking with Stella, will request a face-to-face meeting with her which helps to answer every question they may have. Post donation, Stella had assisted families with closure on their experiences. Thanks Stella and Well Done!!! We wish you a fantastic Retirement.

In addition, we welcomed: Dr Sylvester Omoruyi, Dr Deona Botha, Dr Ugo Offor, Ms Shavana Govender and Mrs Paulina Hadebe. Sylvester Ifeanyi Omoruyi obtained a PhD from the Department of Medical Bioscience, University of the Western Cape and holds an MSc in Anatomy as well as a BSc Hons in Anatomy from the University of Benin, Nigeria. In addition, he recently completed a Postgraduate Diploma in Health Professional Education at the University of Cape Town. He teaches Morphological Anatomy to the second year MBChB students and his research

interests are to identify new treatment strategies for neurodegenerative diseases and brain tumours using a drug repurposing approach or with the use of synthetic compounds and natural products.



Dr Sylvester Omoruyi

Senior Lecturer: Morphological Anatomy



Dr Deona Botha

Lecturer: Biological Anthropology

Dr Deona Botha completed an MSc in Anatomy at the University of Pretoria in 2014 and a PhD in Anatomy at the University of the Witwatersrand in 2019. Her research has focused largely on palaeopathology in archaeological collections and age-at-death estimation using histology in forensic skeletal remains. Her recent work has included the use of decision tree analysis for age-at-death estimation, as well as the assessment of tuberculosis in the skeleton. Currently, she acts as Forensic laboratory manager for the Human Variation and Identification Research Unit (HVIRU) and actively participates in forensic casework.



Dr Ugochukwu Offor

Lecturer: Morphological Anatomy

Dr Ugochukwu Offor has strong commitment towards biomedical sciences, teaching, and research. Dr Offor trained at the University of Port Harcourt, Nigeria and the University of Kwazulu-Natal, South Africa and has been actively engaged in research activities and publications. His research focus areas are mainly: male infertility, metabolic diseases and neurocognitive disorders. His research goal is to garner insights into elucidating new ways that can generate translational windows into new therapeutic opportunities.



Ms Shavana Govender

Lecturer: Morphological Anatomy

Ms. Shavana Govender joined the School of Anatomical Sciences at the University of Witwatersrand in December 2022. She completed her Bachelor of Science degree in Medical Science, majoring in anatomy, physiology, and pharmacology. Shavana went on to do a Bachelor of Science Honors and Master's degrees in Clinical Anatomy. Although not limited to clinical anatomy, her current research interests for her PhD in Anatomy focuses on the intracranial course of the facial nerve. More specifically, in this transdisciplinary research project, Shavana will be morphologically and histologically analyzing the facial nerve. Additionally, this data will be used to inform three-dimensional (3D) computational modelling of the facial nerve in cochlear implants.



Mrs Paulina Hadebe

Administrative officer

Paulina holds a National Diploma in Public Management from Tshwane University of Technology. She joined the University of the Witwatersrand, School of Social Sciences as the Programme Coordinator in 2018. In 2021, she moved to the School of Education as the Honours Coordinator and has now joined the School of Anatomical Sciences in December 2022 as the Administrative Officer.

Carnegie-Wits Alumni Diaspora Programme: Dr Billings

Dr Brendon Billings, senior lecturer in the School of Anatomical Sciences, Health Sciences Faculty, University of the Witwatersrand was privileged to be granted sabbatical leave for several months during 2022.

An aspect of his research which relates to comparative animal neuroscience included a brief research visit to Germany and the United States. He conducted specialized scanning (Diffusion Tensor imaging) on the Nile crocodile (*Crocodylus Niloticus*) at the Ruhr University based in Bochum, Germany. This collaborative research project brought together researchers from Germany, Italy, and South Africa to outline the major myelinated fibre connectivity patterns in the crocodilian brain with reference to sensory modalities (e.g., visual, auditory, and somatosensory).

Additionally, Dr Billings attended a research retreat and symposium in Hamburg, Germany (refer to Fig.1) with a focus on cognition on both bird and human brain models using different scanning modalities (e.g., MRI, fMRI, and DTI). He was also able to present his own research entitled "Crocodile cognition", an animal model with close phylogenetic relatedness to birds. In addition, he attended an international research conference based in Darmstadt <https://researchfeatures.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/TL-Merck.pdf> (see Fig. 2) "Curious 2022, Future Insight Conference" boasting speakers from word

class research institutions such as the Max plank institute of Biochemistry, Harvard, Stanford and MIT to mention a few, as well as Nobel prize laureates. His trip to the US afforded him the opportunity to attend the 42nd Annual Meeting of the J.B. Johnston Club for Evolutionary Neuroscience and the 34th Annual Karger Workshop in Evolutionary Neuroscience based in San Diego <https://doi.org/10.1159/000526691> . The theme for this workshop was entitled “Exaptation, maladaptation and evolution of nervous systems” which included variety of talks and discussions on animal brain models ranging from sharks to frogs. Dr Billings also co-organized two separate symposia and

presented his own research at the 20th Congress of the International Federation of Associations of Anatomists ([The 20th IFAA Congress \(ifaa2022.org\)](http://ifaa2022.org)) the focus of this research was based on the Body Sourcing for Anatomical Education and Research: Experiences from the African Continent and FICEM Symposium - Historical anatomical collections – Treasure, Legacy, and Challenges. Dr Billings would like to acknowledge and thank both sponsors for the financial support for his trip to Germany (TWAS-DFG programme) and the United States (Carnegie-WITS Alumni Diaspora Programme and Carnegie Enabling Grant).



42nd JB Johnston workshop reception dinner (Left to right) Prof Thomas Muller, Dr Brendon Billings, Dr Shyam Srinivasan, and Prof George Striedter, San Diego, California.



Dr Brendon Billings, Curious 2022, Future Insight Conference (Darmstadt, Germany)



Magic Lab Research retreat, Hamburg, Germany hosted by Prof Onur Güntürkün and Prof Sebastian Ocklenburg.

**Carnegie-Wits Alumni Diaspora
Programme: Hosting Drs Tobias Houlton
and Julieta Gomez García-Donas**

Dr Tobias Houlton, Lecturer in Forensic Art and Facial Imaging at the University of Dundee and previously a postdoctoral fellow in the School of Anatomical Sciences at the University of the Witwatersrand, was hosted by Drs Nicholas Bacci and Tshegofatso Ramphaleng thanks to the Carnegie-Wits Alumni Diaspora Programme for two weeks in June-July 2022. During this academic exchange visit, Dr Julieta García-Donas, Lecturer at the Centre for Anatomy and Human Identification, University of Dundee, was also able to join Dr Houlton and allow for new collaborative relationships to develop among the four academics but also amongst other academics with common research interests. A number of new projects looking at craniofacial identification and histological bone changes in relation to age,

taphonomy, and species differentiation were devised, and new students recruited for postgraduate degrees.

Dundee Visit report

Dr Tshegofatso Ramphaleng visited the University of Dundee through the Carnegie Diaspora program at the University of the Witwatersrand. The visit was for two weeks during the month of October 2022. During her visit she got to continue collaborative research in the field of Forensic Anthropology with colleagues at the University of Dundee namely Dr Tobias Houlton and Dr Julieta Gomez Garcia-Donas. Their dissection hall and histomorphometry labs were toured and embalming techniques with Thiel was learned. For non-academic activities, she paid a visit to the Broughty castle museum and Edinburgh city.



From left to right: Dr Tshegofatso Ramphaleng, Dr Tobias Houlton, Dr Nicholas Bacci and Dr Julieta Gomez García-Donas at Dr Houlton's public lecture in the Adler Museum of Medicine, University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg.

Dr Tobias Houlton (left) and Dr T. Ramphaleng (right) at the back in Dundee, Scotland, with the Tay River in the background.



Dr Julieta Gomez Garcia-Donas (left) and Dr Tshegofatso Ramphaleng (right) at the St. Mary Cathedral in Edinburgh,

Identifying faces to recognise humanity

One of the School's academics, Dr Nicholas Bacci was recognised for his research work: The development of the Wits Face Database: An African database of high-resolution facial photographs. The full researcher profile published by the Wits Curiosity magazine can be accessed here:

<https://www.wits.ac.za/curiosity/stories/identifying-faces-to-recognise-humanity.html>



Erasmus+ Staff Mobility: Democritus University of Thrace, Alexandroupoli, Greece

The Erasmus+ staff mobility grant supports training periods for staff working in higher education institutions. This grant was awarded to Prof Marirena Grigoriou, a professor of molecular and developmental biology, and Prof Paul Manger, a professor of comparative neurobiology, to allow for exchange of staff between the School of Anatomical Sciences and the Department of Molecular Biology and Genetics at Democritus university of Thrace.

With the support of this grant, Prof Manger, Prof Augustine and Drs Xulu and Ngwenya of the

School of Anatomical Science were able to travel to Alexandroupoli, Greece to participate in an exchange of ideas, techniques, teaching and the development of future collaborative projects. Professor Augustine and Manger shared some of their work in the fields of cancer biology and comparative neuroanatomy in seminars to faculty and students at the university.

We thank our hosts for the many fruitful discussions, the wonderful food and their hospitality. We look forward to hosting Professor Grigoriou and colleagues at the School of Anatomical Sciences y in 2023.



Prof Tanya Augustine seminar on the tumour microenvironment and cancer progression.



Dr Ngwenya and Dr Kutlwano Xulu trying out some virtual reality learning of Anatomy and laboratory skills.

Hard at Work: (Left to right) Prof Tanya Augustine, Dr Kutlwano Xulu, Dr Nikistratos Siskos, Prof Marirena Grigoriou, Dr Ayanda Ngwenya, Prof Paul Manger, Prof Giorgios Skavdis, Dr Elektra Stvlianoooulou.



19th National Forensic Sciences Congress

Maryna Steyn presented a three-hour workshop at the 3rd International, 19th National Forensic Sciences Congress in Turkey, 3 – 6 Nov 2022. The conference was held at the Aquasis De Luxe resort in Didim. She was invited by Dr. Oğuzhan Ekizoğlu, with whom she serves as a board member of the Forensic Anthropology Society of Europe (FASE). Three topics were addressed, and included excavation and retrieval of remains, basic

skeletal analysis, and the forensic report (illustrated by case studies). The workshop was facilitated by Dr. Emine Çetinsel from Cyprus.

The Nieuwpoort skeletal collection

The Amsterdam Medical Centre (AMC) in The Netherlands houses a valuable skeletal collection that were accidentally stumbled upon in 2011. Construction plans and progress for an apartment complex were interrupted with the

discovery of a large cemetery in the city of Nieuwpoort, Belgium. A full archaeological assessment followed, leading to the excavation of 549 individuals. Due to the size of the collection, a suitable and large enough space had to be found for storage and safe keeping. Dr Lida van der Merwe at the AMC offered to curate the collection.

Dr Deona Botha had the privilege of travelling to The Netherlands during April of this year to start analyses on the collection as part of her post-doctoral fellowship in the School of Anatomical Sciences at the University of the Witwatersrand. The collection comprises of about 200 children and 350 adults. The subadults were analyzed first and specific attention was given to age estimation and palaeopathological lesions associated with the remains. A follow-up visit was arranged during

September of this year to start analyses on the adult individuals. Analyses are currently ongoing, and they hope to assess the full collection by the end of 2023.



From left to right: Dr. Oğuzhan Ekizoğlu, Dr. Emine Çetinsel, Prof Maryna Steyn



The Amsterdam Medical Centre (AMC) in The Netherlands

Courses and workshops attended

Staff (Prof D Brits) and postgraduate students (Mira Mendelow, Patience Mamali and Oriasotie Ujaddughe) from the School of Anatomical Sciences attended the “Introduction to R and Geometric Morphometrics presented by Prof Kyra Stull (University of Nevada, Reno) and Dr Alison Ridel (University of Pretoria), hosted by the Bakeng se Afrika and Dirisana+

teams of the University of Pretoria (29-31 August 2022). Everyone enjoyed the workshop very much and learned a lot about GMM and the using and *loving* “R”.

During July/August (25 July – 6 August 2022), Prof D Brits attended a Paleopathology and Traumatology course presented by the Odyssey Fieldschool (season 7) in Cyprus. This course was organised and presented by Prof

Xenia-Paula Kyriakou from the Florida Gulf Coast University. The field school included specimens with various pathologies which contributed to the study of paleopathology.

Conference attendance

Prof D Brits attended the Basic Course and Symposium, hosted by the Forensic Anthropology Society of Europe, Crete, Greece (26 September – 1 October 2022). During the symposium Prof Brits presented an oral presentation authored by M Rangasamy & herself. The presentation was entitled the “The accuracy of rib phase analysis for age estimation in white South Africans”.



Prof D Brits at the Basic Course and Symposium, hosted by the Forensic Anthropology Society of Europe (FASE), Crete, Greece.

Dr Erin Hutchinson and two postgraduate students, Ms Tamara Lottering and Mrs Natasha Loubser from the School of

Anatomical Sciences presented oral presentations during the online 20th Congress of the International Federation of Associations of Anatomists (Istanbul, Turkey, virtual event; 5-7 August 2022). Dr Hutchinson’s talk, which was co-authored by Mr N Onwochei-Bolum and Professor B Kramer, was entitled: “Assessing growth changes in the human palate across different stages of dental eruption”. Ms Lottering’s talk was co-authored by Dr B Billings, Prof D Brits, Dr E Hutchinson and Prof B Kramer and was entitled “A southern African perspective on the ethical use of digital images in anatomical teaching”. Mrs Natasha Loubser’s talk was entitled “An evaluation of the reliability of current stature estimation equations for contemporary White South Africans” and was co-authored by Prof MA Bidmos and Prof D Brits.

Numerous staff and students presented their research at the Wits Faculty of Health Sciences Research Day and Postgraduate Expo event (15 September 2022). Some of the poster presentations included: Du Toit CL, Myburgh J, Brits D. Understanding the effects of rehydration on the rate of decomposition. Loubser N, Bidmos MA, Brits D. Assessing the accuracy of soft-tissue correction factors for the stature estimation of White South African males. Staff and students also represented the School of Anatomical Science at the 49th Annual Conference of the Anatomical Society of Southern Africa 2022 (Virtual event hosted by the University of Western Cape). Mrs Natasha Loubser presented an oral presentation entitled “The applicability of the anatomical method for stature estimation in White South African males” which was co-authored by Prof MA Bidmos and Prof D Brits. Ms Loubser won the Willie Vorster Award for the best poster presentation by a first-time presenter. Ms Claire du Toit presented a poster co-authored by Dr J Myburgh and Prof D Brits entitled “Understanding the effects of rehydration on the rate of decomposition” and was recognized as the 2nd runner up for the Willie Vorster Award for the best poster presentation by a first-time presenter. Dr S Etoniru also shared results from his PhD through a poster presentation entitled “Insect succession patterns during decomposition in

southern Nigeria” which was co-authored by Dr J Myburgh and Prof D Brits.

Other / general

Staff from the Human Identification and Variation Research Unit, School of Anatomical Sciences as well as the Department of Forensic Medicine and Pathology, School of Clinical Medicine, University of the Witwatersrand recently (8 November 2022) attended the formal launch of the African Centre for Medicolegal Systems (ACMS). This initiative

from the RCRC Missing and Separated Families Centre, and the International Committee of the Red Cross’s Regional Delegation in Pretoria, spear headed by Mr Stephen Fonseca and his team, was attended by various local and international delegates. The event included an extraordinary panel conversation that set the scene for the ACMS. This satellite hub will strive to ensure stronger humanitarian responses through local and international collaborations to enhance medicolegal systems across the continent of African and abroad.



From left to right Dr Craig Keyes (Wits), Mr Lawrence Hill (Wits), Ms Allison Gilbert (Wits), Mr Stephen Fonseca (ICRC), Prof Desiré Brits (Wits), Ms Tracy Reindorp (Wits) and Prof Maryna Steyn (Wits)

Koffiefontein excavations

20 June – 2 July 2022

In June/July of 2022, the Universities of the Witwatersrand and Pretoria concluded the first field season of what will be a 5-year project to identify, document, exhume and analyse the remains of approximately 500 unknown historic miners’ graves on the Petra Diamond Mines, situated in Koffiefontein, Free State (Fig. 1). The mine has been in operation since the 1860s and played an important role in the industrial

revolution of South Africa. As these individuals represent a unique period in South African mine history and their identities remain unknown it is essential to fully document all aspects related to their demographics, living conditions, possible causes of death and health. This collaborative project is also an ideal opportunity for student training and experimenting with new techniques to document and study graves and human remains using three-dimensional surface modelling methods. The WITS team, led by Dr Anja Meyer, is exploring the use of

specifically structure-from-motion (photogrammetry) in the three-dimensional reconstruction of graves, artefacts, and individual skeletal elements to assist in contextualisation and more in-depth analyses (Fig. 2). The research outputs that will stem

from this collaboration will in part assist in not only understanding the role these individuals played in developing the early South African economy but will also enable some recognition of these individuals' contributions and sacrifices.



Figure 1: Teams from both institutions excavating several graves that were identified during the first field



Figure 2: Screenshot of three-dimensionally modelled made using photogrammetry. Here we can see the individual's phalange with an associated ring he wore when he was buried.

Forensic Archaeology Workshop 10 and 11 March 2022

This workshop was presented by Dr Anja Meyer from the Human Variation and Identification Research Unit, School of Anatomical Sciences, the University of the Witwatersrand in collaboration with Mr Okuhle Sapo from the Department of Anatomy, University of Pretoria. The workshop was aimed at introducing delegates to the basic principles and techniques used in locating, retrieving and documenting buried human remains. The workshop entailed a half day of lectures followed by a full day of fieldwork during which attendees were required to locate, excavate and document a mock grave (Fig. 1). This workshop was presented as part of the Dirisana+ project which aims to develop capacity at various Sub-Saharan African institutions, of which the University of the Witwatersrand forms part of. The workshop was attended by 24 delegates from the Universities of the Witwatersrand, Pretoria, Stellenbosch, Namibia, and Dundee.

Face to Face exhibit

Kimberleigh Tommy, PhD Candidate at the Human Variation and Identification Research at the School of Anatomical Sciences and current Curator at the Maropeng and Sterkfontein Official Visitor Centres for the Cradle of Humankind UNESCO World Heritage Site launched her very first exhibit in October 2022. The exhibit, 'Face to Face' looks at how art, science and imagination come together to reconstruct the lives and faces of hominins from the Cradle region. The exhibit features two busts created by world renowned palaeoartist John Gurche of Australopithecus sediba and Homo naledi.

Link to the Wits University article (which includes the awesome video):

<https://www.wits.ac.za/news/latest-news/research-news/2022/2022-10/maropeng-brings-visitors-face-to-face-with-early-hominins.html>

Dr Ilke Malungo



Figure 1: Delegates engaging in the excavation and documentation of mock graves, along with Dr Anja Meyer and Mr Okuhle Sapo who facilitated the workshop.



Maropeng curator at the for the Cradle of Humankind, Kimberleigh Tommy showcasing the exhibit "Face to Face". Image credit: Wits University, Pushamo Photography, Refilwe Moseamedi

Art & Poetry in Anatomy



Cristian Izquierdo Ortego is a MBBCh II student in the Faculty of Health Sciences at the University of the Witwatersrand. As part of the final dedication ceremony in the School of Anatomical Sciences, students are invited to share any artistic offerings they wish to share in tribute to their cadaver. Please enjoy his!

Pacemaker – Cristian Izquierdo Ortega

Our Life began
In the face of death.
Your reckless rhythms
I was set to perfect.

Weakness walked in
Infiltrated and conquered.
Still we kept marching
When you could no longer.

Steady, sturdy,
Replete and repeat.
Effortless elegance
Beautiful in our beat.

Perpetual pounding
Drowning out our fear.

Insistent yet
Ignorant
As our end drew near.

Mighty Marching
Became
Feeble footsteps.
Stumbling, scrambling
Until one last step
Exhausted
You stopped.

Ventricles now valleys
Where rivers once roared.
An orchestra now empty
Without the thrumming of your chords.
An electrical symphony
Now missing its conductor.

Yet you remain Perfect,
Polished, and Preserved.
Waiting patiently, eagerly
Should life return.

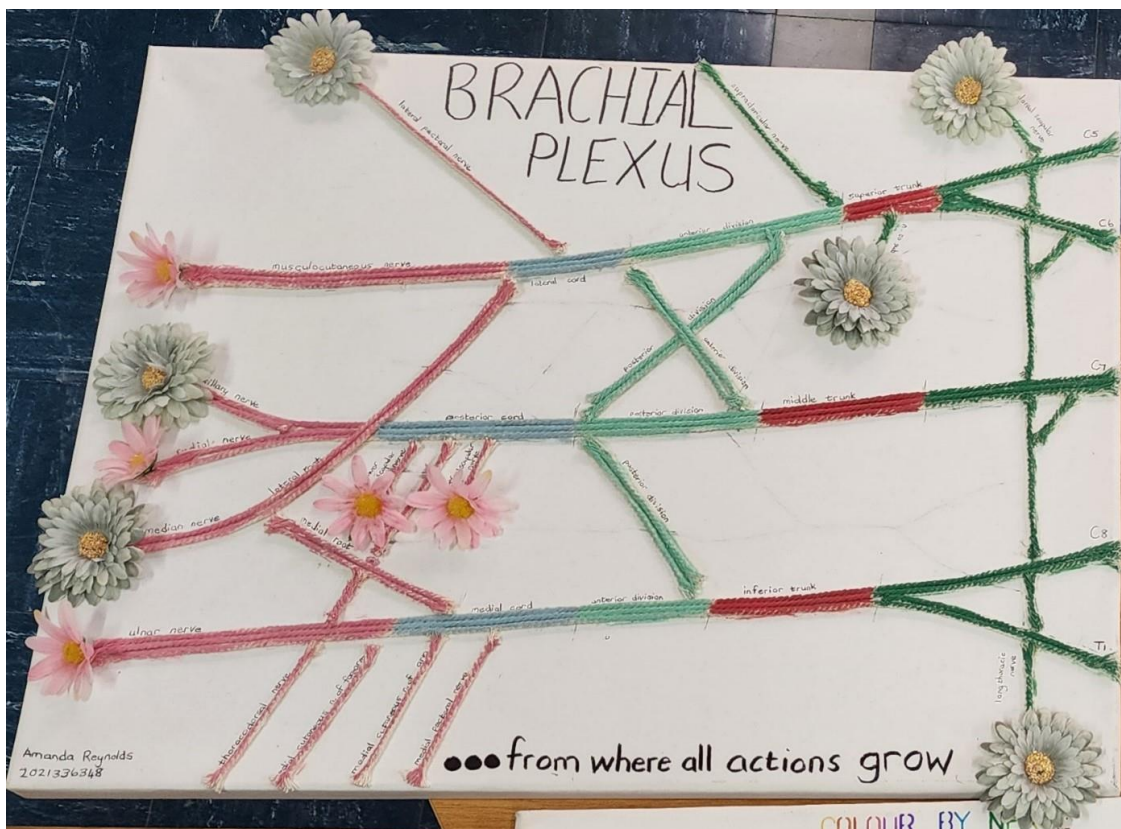
Suddenly, slowly
They entered your chamber.
Eyes glowing, hands trembling
Baring the secrets
Of your synthetic nature.

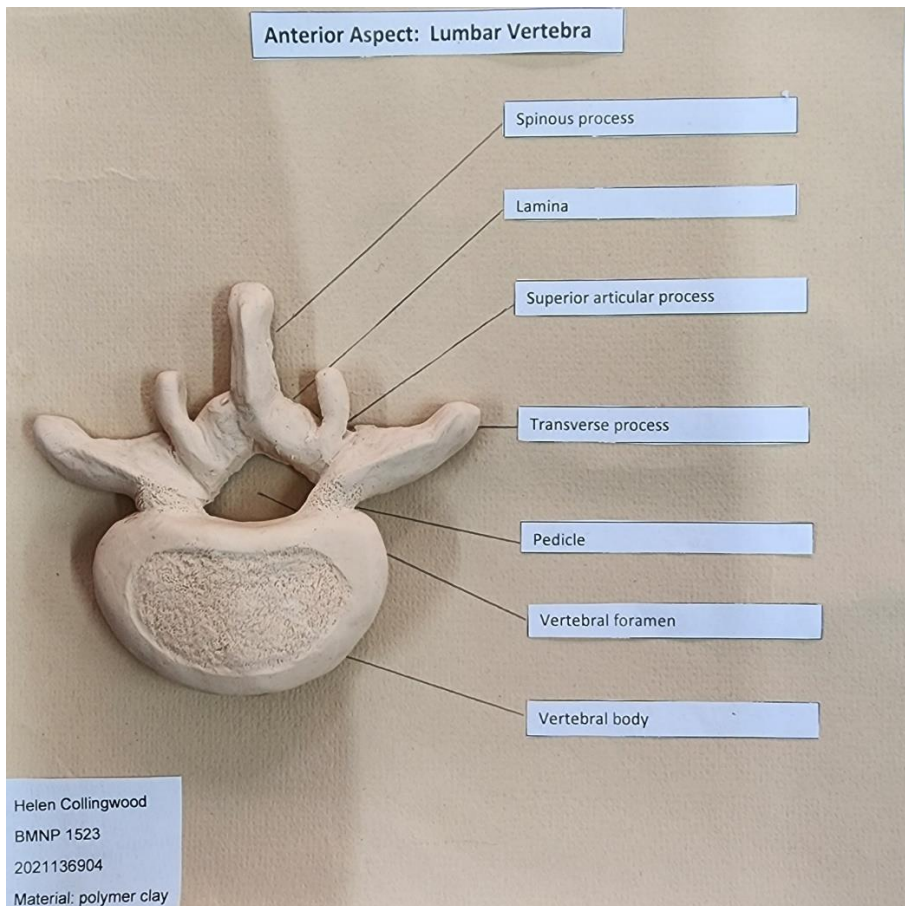
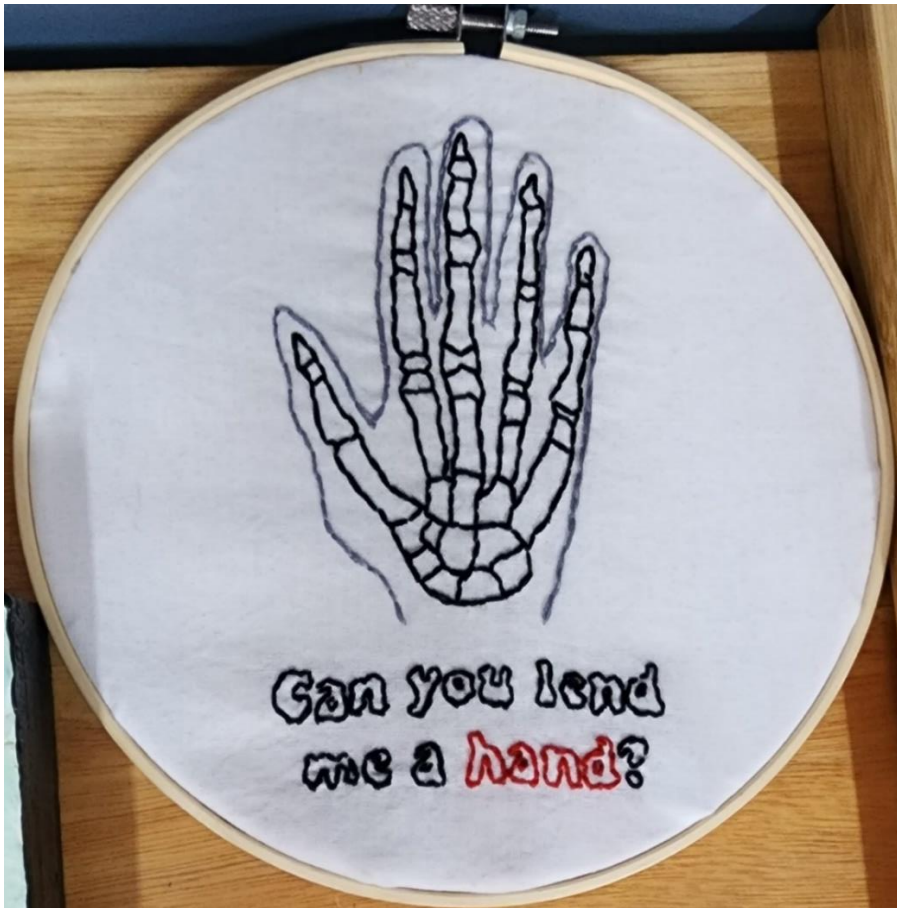
Ceaseless scrutiny
In search of your truth.
Soon, scalpels became spotlights
Not asking what, but who.

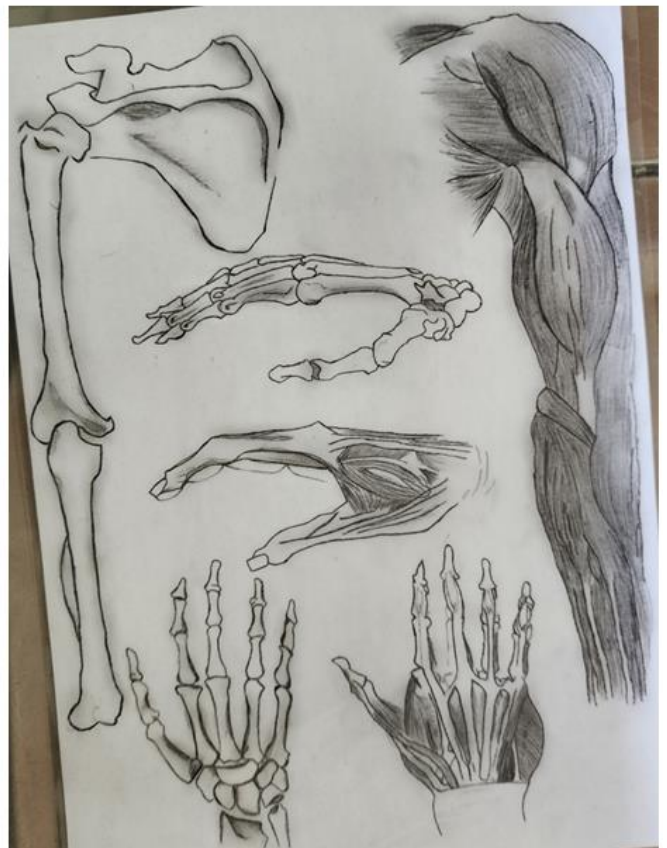
Superficial scanning
Unveiled your anatomy.
But Deeper they discovered
Endless bounds of Humanity.

We hadn't failed
Life had not ended.
In their minds and their souls
Life prevailed and extended.

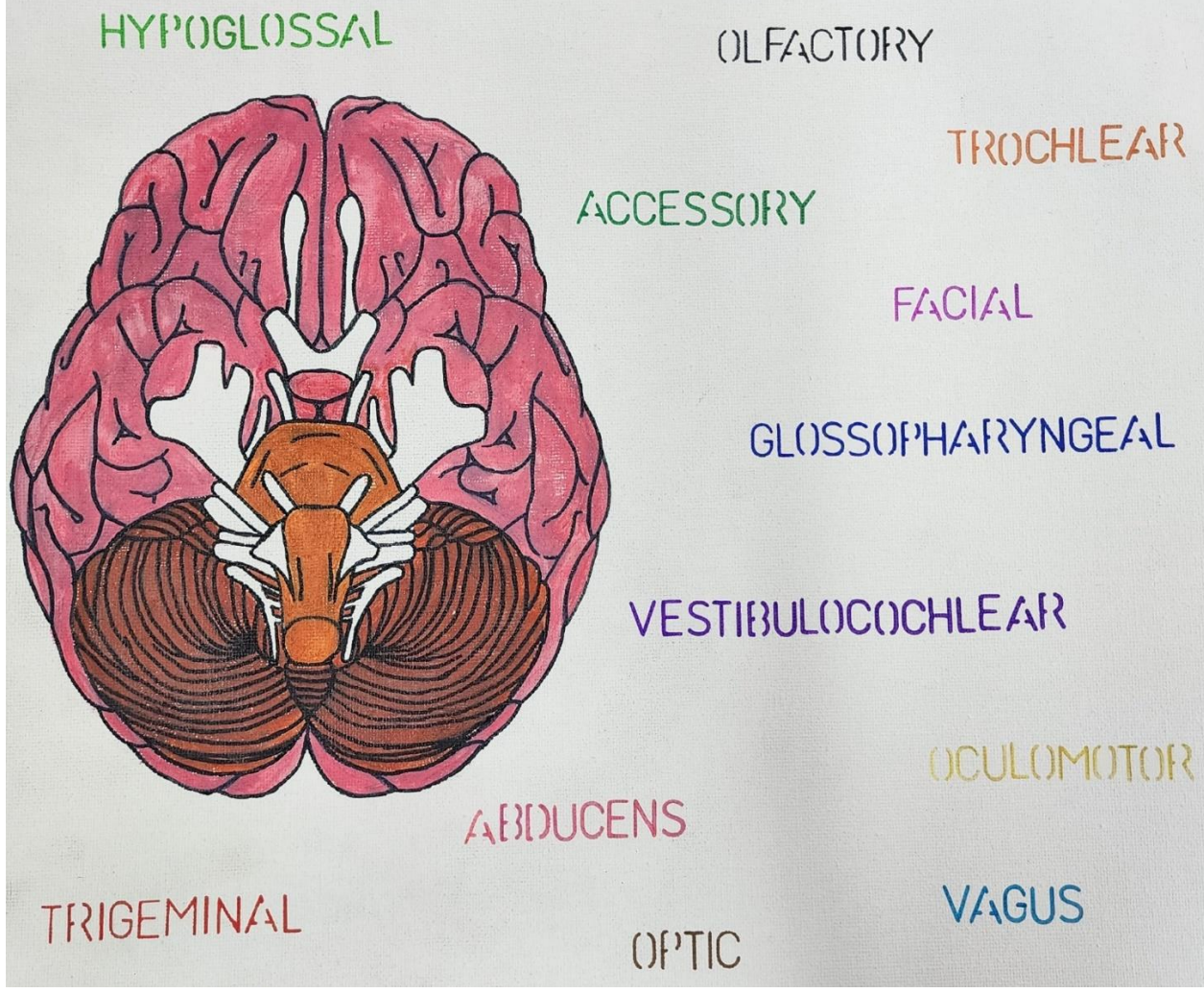
ART FROM ANATOMY STUDENTS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF THE FREE STATE





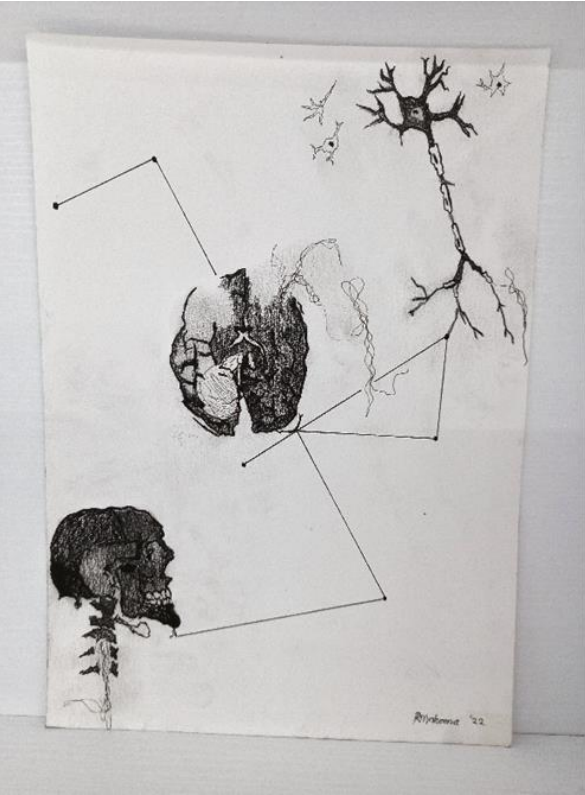


COLOUR BY NERVE



Artworks from the University of Stellenbosch

“These figurative drawing show appreciation for the human form. Art for me is an outlet of my creativity and vivid imagination and I also use it as a learning tool for human anatomy”. Ms Pheladi Mokoena, BSc Hons in Morphological Science Student.



UPCOMING EVENTS

XXVIII International Symposium on Morphological Sciences (ISMS)

Vision 2023 & Beyond – Excellence in Research & Education



5-8 August 2023, Cape Town (South Africa)

Venue: Graduate School of Business, Victoria & Alfred Waterfront, Cape Town, Republic of South Africa

Hosted by the Anatomical Society of Southern Africa (ASSA)



Contact: Professor Graham Louw. Email: Graham.Louw@uct.ac.za

<https://www.symposiamorphologica.com/index.php/upcoming-symposia>

WEBINAR ON PUBLISHING IN ANATOMY JOURNALS

FEDERATIVE INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE ON SCIENTIFIC PUBLICATIONS (FICSP) OF IFAA

RESEARCH AND PUBLISHING IN RADIOLOGICAL ANATOMY



ONLINE
MEETING
ZOOM

*Professor Veronica
Macchi
Associate Editor*

Thursday, December 15 at 14.00 CET

Register with link or QR code

bit.ly/3BhQvEL



*Surgical and Radiologic
Anatomy
and
European Journal of
Anatomy*



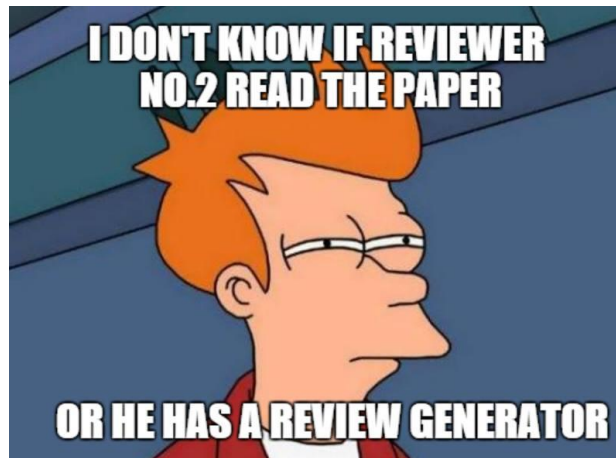
IFAA

International Federation of Associations of Anatomists
Federation Internationale des Associations d'Anatomistes

AN ACADEMIC VOICE FOR STUDENTS



Doing and publishing research is like dissection – not for sissies! The academic community expect emerging scholars or aspirant Master students to be able to publish research in what can be a very hostile environment. Many of us are still traumatised by ‘Reviewer 2’ who is a well-known phenomenon / meme in academia.



One way to prepare for the Reviewer 2s of this world is to start publishing while you are an undergraduate so that you can learn and improve while still being protected (we also have two reviewers, but our Reviewer 2s are kinder than the general brand out there). As part of the Dirisana+ project, the Undergraduate Research in Health journal (URH) is an online, bi-annual, peer-reviewed journal that presents research done by undergraduate students in the health sciences. This journal was specifically started to provide a safe space for undergraduate health science students (who have not yet graduated).

So why not submit a manuscript, a short report or one of the other formats? We are waiting to hear from you...

<https://samajournals.co.za/index.php/urhj/index>

GREETINGS FROM THE EDITOR

The resilience and dedication of our anatomists has once again been a shining light and this was particularly evident when we finally had the opportunity to engage at the IFAA congress held virtually in Istanbul, Turkey. We have also seen the resumption of more and more face-to-face academic meetings and one only hopes that this continues to spread through the Anatomy community.

Once again hearty congratulations to the organisers and presenters at this year's ASSA World Anatomy Day Virtual Symposium. Blended learning and flipped classroom approaches have once again continued to dominate academia. The Federative International Program for Anatomy Education (FIPAE) has once again wet our appetites with a whole host of exciting opportunities to engage with the various facets on anatomy education within the online context. I encourage you to take full advantage of these enriching opportunities to engage with the anatomy education community. I also encourage the readership to keep an eye out for the IFAA soundbites which are circulated regularly and offer a whole host of exiting opportunities. Don't miss out!

I also wanted to take the opportunity to once again highlight the artistic contributions of our budding anatomists! I hope you find inspiration in the contributions of these talented individuals. I also extend my thanks 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 2023!

Best wishes



Erin Hutchinson