School of Public Health and Family Medicine
Annual Report 2013

HOD and Director: Professor Mohamed F Jeebhay

Introduction

Summary / Overview

The School of Public Health and Family Medicine is a strong multidisciplinary department in the Faculty of Health Sciences with extensive undergraduate and postgraduate teaching and training of medical students as well as students pursuing academic study in the public health sciences. The School is organised into 8 disciplinary teaching and training divisions. Three of these divisions, Public Health Medicine, Occupational Medicine and Family Medicine have a clinical service responsibility through joint staff appointments with Western Cape Government Department of Health (Directorate of Health Impact Assessment; Groote Schuur Hospital Occupational Medicine Clinic; and the Chief Directorate Metro District Health Services) respectively. The other non-clinical divisions include Epidemiology and Biostatistics; Health Economics; Health Policy and Systems; Occupational and Environmental Health; and Social and Behavioural Sciences. The School also hosts four University-Recognised Research groupings: Centre for Infectious Diseases Epidemiology and Research (CIDER); Centre for Occupational and Environmental Health Research (COEHR); Health Economics Unit (HEU); and the Women’s Health Research Unit (WHRU). In addition, the School hosts the Industrial Health Resource Group (IHRG), which provides health and safety training and support to trade unions.

The key departmental focus and objectives for 2013 were to consolidate the reorganisation of the School into its 8 divisions and 4 research entities, so as to advance the strengthening of the disciplines housed in the divisions and consolidate the research units into highly productive and sustainable research entities. This was also accompanied by an extensive administrative reorganisation to ensure effective academic, human resource and financial administration of its teaching and research activities. This included a space audit to optimise space utilisation in the context of increasing demand due to expanding research activities. The other major focus was to promote and strengthen the relationships with provincial health department counterparts so as to ensure a high level of service delivery as the district level for family medicine services as well as providing the high level technical support at the provincial level for public health and occupational medicine services. Finally, the School developed a transformation programme, which included an increasing focus on the need for ongoing education to advance transformation in the School and more broadly in the Faculty.

Highlights

- The School inaugurated its first research day in 2013, with a special valedictory address by Prof Jonny Myers, outgoing director of the Centre for Occupational and Environmental Health Research (COEHR) and once director of the School.

- The School of Public Health and Family Medicine hosted a seminar, “Knowledge, Equity and Health in post-Apartheid South Africa...What's Race got to do with it?”, at which guest speaker, Professor Lundy Braun from Brown University, USA, spoke.
This seminar was part of its ongoing educational programme on transformation initiated to continue conversations on this important issue in the Faculty.

- Awarding of a R20 million grant from the NIH to support the creation of the Social and Behavioural Sciences Division’s new flagship initiative, the “South African Social Science and HIV (SASH) Programme”. The SASH Programme will provide a critical source of energy and direction for the research, teaching and training agendas of this new Division.

- The Health and Human Rights programme of the Public Health Medicine Division hosted its 14th Annual Train-the-Trainer short course in Health and Human Rights aimed at teaching staff in South African health sciences higher education institutions planning to introduce human rights into their curricula. This brings the number of alumni of this course to over 240 to date.

- The Learning Network for Health and Human Rights, in partnership with the Centre for Health, Human Rights and Development, in Kampala, Uganda, hosted a two day regional meeting on the Right to Health and Community Participation in Kiboga, Uganda. The meeting was attended by over 90 participants from 6 countries in the region.

- The Health and Human Rights Programme hosted Professor Fons Coomans, the UNESCO chair of Human Rights Law at Maastricht University for a programme that included seminars on the Right to Food, the Right to Benefit from Scientific Programme and the role of Participation in the Right to Health.

- The Learning Network for Health and Human Rights hosted a Photovoice Exhibition which displayed work of its community partners in The Women’s Circle using images of health and human rights in the community. The exhibition was funded by an award from the Gordon Institute for Performing and Creative Arts and continues to be exhibited in communities as a vehicle for awareness raising and community action on the social determinants of health.

- The Family Medicine Division held annual GP Refresher course to provided continuing professional development for primary care practitioners.

- The Family Medicine Division introduced staff languages training courses at Delft and Kraaifontein community Health Centres.

- Languages programme of the Family Medicine Division were aired on national television in two “Doctors Orders” programmes:
  - http://www.fammed.uct.ac.za/docs/DO_S1EP_24_Langauge_Ermersion.mp4
  - http://www.fammed.uct.ac.za/docs/DO_S1EP_21_Keeping_you_in_Stitches.mp4

- The Family Medicine Division held a very successful fund-raiser “Keeping you in stitches” hosted by UCT medical alumnus, Dr Riaad Moosa at the CTICC. The proceeds of the event was used to purchase a new Toyota Avanza for FHS students travelling between UCT and Vredenburg.

- The Occupational Medicine Clinic at Groote Schuur Hospital was consolidated as a joint activity of the new Occupational Medicine Division and the Divisions of Dermatology and Pulmonology within the Department of Medicine.
The Centre for Occupational and Environmental Health Research (COEHR) successfully underwent the 5 year URC Quality Assurance review, affirming the centre as a highly productive internationally recognised centre with substantial impact.

The Centre for Occupational and Environmental Health Research (COEHR) hosted the 12th International Symposium of Neurobehavioural Methods and Effects in Occupational and Environmental Health in Cape Town under the auspices of the Scientific Committee for Neurotoxicology and Psychophysiology of the International Congress on Occupational Health (ICOH) and organised by Emeritus Prof Jonny Myers and Prof Leslie London. The proceedings will be published in a special edition of Neurotoxicology.

The work of the COEHR led by Prof Jonny Myers played an important role in the downward revision of the ACGIH TLV international occupational exposure limit for manganese, which is widely used to assess safety of workplace environmental exposures.

The Health Policy and Systems Division was awarded three new grants during this year: a grant to evaluate a systems intervention around sexual and reproductive health (in Ghana, Malawi and Cameroon); a grant for evaluation research of 23 collaborative sites or health committees in South Africa; and a grant for an evaluation of two health systems interventions in Mozambique and Zambia.

The Health Policy and Systems Division was the co-host of the first workshop of the CHEPSAA Emerging Leaders Programme. This initiative of the Consortium for Health Policy and Systems Analysis (an 11 partner Africa-European collaboration), drew together 26 colleagues from East, West and South Africa. The programme aims to develop African health policy and systems research leaders for the future, and the specific event focused on personal leadership and research skills.

**Departmental Profile**

**Staff**

The School had 183 staff, among whom there were 124 permanent and long term contract staff and 59 honorary staff. Almost two thirds of the former category are research contract staff and 60% of staff are women.

**Permanent and long-term contract staff**

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<tr>
<th>Position</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Professors</td>
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<tr>
<td>Associate Professors</td>
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<tr>
<td>Emeritus Associate Professor</td>
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<tr>
<td>Senior Lecturers</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lecturers (including part-time)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Clinical Senior Research Officer</td>
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<tr>
<td>Senior Research Officers</td>
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<tr>
<td>Research Officers</td>
<td>7</td>
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<tr>
<td>Research Assistants</td>
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<tr>
<td>Research Project Management Staff</td>
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Honorary Staff

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<td>Honorary Professors</td>
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<tr>
<td>Honorary Associate Professors</td>
<td>5</td>
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<tr>
<td>Honorary Senior Lecturers</td>
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<tr>
<td>Honorary Lecturers</td>
<td>16</td>
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<tr>
<td>Honorary Research Associates</td>
<td>11</td>
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<tr>
<td>Visiting Lecturers</td>
<td>10</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>59</strong></td>
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- Development Opportunities

A number of staff were promoted during the year or took on new senior appointments.

The new appointment of heads of divisions in the School included: Public Health Medicine (Prof Leslie London); Occupational Medicine (Prof Rodney Ehrlich), Epidemiology and Biostatistics (Assoc Prof Landon Myer); Health Policy and Systems (Prof Lucy Gilson); Occupational and Environmental Health (Prof Mohamed Jeebhay); Social and Behavioural Sciences (Dr Christopher Colvin); Health Economics (Dr Edina Sinanovic). The head of Family Medicine (Assoc Prof Derek Hellenberg) continues to serve in his position.

Associate Professor Aqiel Dalvie was appointed as the new Director for the Centre for Occupational and Environmental Health Research (COEHR) on retirement of Prof Jonny Myers. Dr Andrea Rother was appointed as deputy director.

Associate Professor Landon Myer was appointed as Deputy Director of the Centre for Infectious Diseases Epidemiology and Research (CIDER).

Staff who received Ad Hominem Promotions in this year included Dr Andrea Rother who was promoted to Associate Professor (COEHR and OEH Division), Dr Jane Harries to Associate Professor (WHRU and SBS Division), Dr John Ataguba to Senior Lecturer (HEU and HE Division), Dr Kathryn Stinson to Senior Research Officer (CIDER).

Staff who graduated with their PhDs included Roslynn Baatjies (COEHR) and Dr Mary-Ann Davies (CIDER) who was also awarded the Bronte Stewart Memorial Research Award for the best PhD in the Faculty of Health Sciences.

Dr Lele Rangaka (CIDER), awarded her PhD in 2012 by the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, was awarded the Woodruff medal for the PhD most likely to impact health in developing countries in 2013.

The following staff were also successful with their post-graduate studies: Phuelele Trasada, Monika Kamkuemah, Leatitia Kumpire graduated with an MPH, Lucy Campbell (MSc Statistics), Linda Ganca (M Phil Pall Med), Nazlie Beckett (Dip Family Medicine), Natasha Moodaley (BSocSci), Farzannah Begg (CEC course).
Dr Hussein Mwanga, the first supernumerary registrar occupational medicine graduated as an occupational medicine specialist. He will return to Tanzania to strengthen the academic discipline in his country, being one of the in the country.

- Achievements

Dr Virginia Zweigenthal was appointed as Public Health Medicine Specialist in the Division supporting the Health Research sub-directorate in the Provincial Department of Health.

Prof Mohamed Jeebhay, Dr Virginia Zweigenthal and Assoc Prof David Coetzee continued to serve on the Council of the College of Public Health Medicine in the CMSA.

Governance

- Management

The School is managed by the Head of Department and Director of the School, Prof Mohamed Jeebhay in consultation with an executive committee comprising the heads of divisions, directors of URC accredited research units/centres and co-opted members holding key portfolio positions for undergraduate teaching, postgraduate teaching, research and transformation. The executive committee meets on a monthly basis. Staff meetings are held on a quarterly basis and serve to inform staff of local departmental as well as Faculty and University wide developments.

- Committees

The committees responsible for the oversight of the major activities of the School include the undergraduate education committee, the postgraduate education committee, and the departmental research committee that meet on a regular basis.

Teaching

- Courses offered

The School hosts 7 courses as components of the undergraduate programmes for students in the medical and allied health professions, in almost every year of their training. The School also runs a large postgraduate programme, including 7 postgraduate diplomas, 6 Master’s programmes, 3 professional Master’s programmes and a PhD programme. The MPH continues to attract widespread interest from potential applicants, particularly from other African countries. There were 226 applicants for 50 places, of which 52 were accepted and took up places for study in 2013. With appropriate resourcing, there is scope for an increased intake and increased throughput on this flagship programme. As the only Masters programme in palliative medicine in Africa, the MPhil in Palliative Medicine continues to attract interest from students in South Africa and other countries in Africa. In addition, the School continues to be a focal point within UCT and nationally for training in research methods for researchers across the Faculty of health sciences, with School staff teaching epidemiology, biostatistics and qualitative research methods in a range of settings across the country.
The School is also playing an increasing role in the new undergraduate medical curriculum with the aim of producing medical professionals able to function effectively at the primary care level, imbued with a strong understanding of the public health context. Public health and health promotion training to undergraduates take place in community-based settings. This has been instrumental in pioneering community-placements for MBChB students at UCT. A number of initiatives are underway to develop off-campus teaching sites linked to community health centres and district hospitals. The Family Medicine division has been closely involved in developing and supporting the rural teaching venue in Vredenburg. isiXhosa and Afrikaans were introduced into the Paediatric rotation in the 5th year of the MBChB programme. Important advances were made in the assessment of undergraduate teaching in that new methods for group work assessment were designed and implemented and on-line reflective portfolios introduced.

- **Student Registrations**

In 2013, there were 364 postgraduate students in the School, including 41 PhD students.

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<td>Doctoral</td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Master’s</td>
<td>222</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PG Diploma</td>
<td>113</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Undergraduate</td>
<td>1245</td>
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<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>1609</strong></td>
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**Training**

- **Students Graduated**

A total of 72 postgraduate students graduated in 2013, including 4 PhDs, 37 Master’s and 31 postgraduate diploma students (one third of all faculty diplomas awarded). The Master’s in Public Health (MPH), the School’s flagship public health programme and the largest taught master’s in the Faculty, has graduated over 200 students in the past decade.

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<tr>
<td>Doctoral</td>
<td>4</td>
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<tr>
<td>Master’s</td>
<td>37</td>
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<tr>
<td>PG Diploma</td>
<td>31</td>
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<tr>
<td>Undergraduate</td>
<td>182</td>
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<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>254</strong></td>
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**Research**

The School’s research activities continued to grow during 2013, with publication outputs increasing for the fourth consecutive year (see graph). Across the School, 98 researchers (including academic staff and postgraduate students) produced 280 publications. Major publications from the School in 2013 include prominent publications in leading journals such as...
as the Lancet and PLoS Medicine. Across all groupings, the School received more than R50 million in new funding, including grants from the US National Institutes of Health and the World Health Organisation. When research outputs are compared to the number of academic staff, the School continues to be one of the most productive Departments in the Faculty.

**Social Responsiveness**

The work of the Public Health Medicine Division continued to provide a range of technical support to the Provincial Health Department within its Health Impact Assessment Directorate. It helps to mobilise the public health intelligence needed for effective service planning, monitoring and evaluation as well as its responsiveness to change. Staff in this Division continued to play a key role in producing the Provincial Mortality Surveillance report, the only such report available at Provincial level in South Africa. The health research function, including chairing of the provincial health research committee of the province is also supported by staff in this division. Other engagement by staff within the Division include providing oral health services (oral health screenings) for SHAWCO.

The Health and Human Rights Programme in the Public Health Medicine Division continued to develop research, training, information exchange, capacity building and advocacy, with an emphasis on empowering community groups to take action for the right to health. Three main activities were undertaken including building the capacity of health committees to act as vehicles for community voice in the health system; strengthening networking by civil society organisations around the right to health in the Western Cape; and developing and costing a professional South African Sign Language (SASL) interpretation for deaf persons in the Western Cape as a key element of the right to health.

The Occupational Medicine Division is actively involved in the evaluation of occupational lung diseases in ex-miners and strongly advocating for improved access and a more equitable worker’s compensation for these workers. The Division has been providing high level technical support in improving the occupational health and safety of health care facilities in the Western Cape through its involvement in the Provincial Quality Improvement Committee of the Provincial Health Department.

The Family Medicine Division staff have contributed through their participation in SHAWCO clinics as well key involvement in professional associations such as the South African Academy of Family Practice, the Rural Doctors Association of South Africa and the Hospice Palliative Care Association.

The Division of Social and Behavioural Sciences engaged in public advocacy activities, technical support and capacity building through engagement with NGOs partners such as Sonke Gender Justice, the People’s Health Movement, Doctors without Borders, Learning Network for Health and Human Rights, and the Human Rights Media Centre around issues of masculinity, HIV treatment access, albinism, and the right to health. Finally, in the area of policy contributions, we have been very active in efforts to enable the integration of qualitative evidence syntheses (QES) into global health policymaking and health guideline development by working with partners such as WHO and UNICEF.

All of the research work within the Health Policy and Systems Division has some element of social responsiveness, since health systems work is understood to be deeply rooted in real-world issues, and responsive to local partner concerns. In 2013 some key socially
responsive activities have included activities within two large collaborative networks focused on strengthening African health policy and systems research and teaching capacity, three participatory projects where UCT researchers have closely partnered with front-line health workers to improve their capacity and capabilities, and one participatory community development project focused on community systems strengthening for violence intervention.

Members of the Centre for Occupational and Environmental Health Research, sit on the Western Cape’s provincial climate change and health committee and the South African Multi-stakeholder Committee on Chemicals Management chaired by the National Department of Environmental Affairs. In the COEHR Dr Rother has developed and assessed chemical awareness raising strategies by various government departments, which have been chaired by the National Department of Labour.

The Women’s Health Research Unit provides technical consultancy to UN Women’s Rights and Gender Section Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights; to WHO on guidelines for task shifting for abortion care; to the Eden Health District in the Western Cape to develop a Women’s Health Strategy; and provided input on the Strategic Plan for Maternal, Newborn, Child and Women’s Health (MNCWH) and Nutrition in South Africa Mid-term Review Women’s Health Technical Group. Assoc Prof Jennifer Moodley Member of the National Department of Health Cervical Cancer Task Team which is revising the current Cervical Cancer Prevention Policy.

Awards / Honours

- Prof Mohamed Jeebhay was presented with the Collegium Ramazzini medal by the Mayor of Carpi in Italy on being elected as a new fellow of the Collegium Ramazzini, an international academy in Occupational and Environmental Health
- Prof Leslie London was awarded a prestigious Fulbright Fellowship as a Senior Researcher to support his sabbatical visit to the Department of Environmental Health at the School of Public Health at Boston University (1 June to 31 December 2013)
- Prof Jonny Myers was awarded a B1 NRF Rating and Dr Richard Matzopoulos a C1 NRF rating
- Dr John Ataguba received the Young Investigator Award for the best publication in 2012 as well as the Claude Leon Merit Award for Young Lecturers
- A/Prof David Coetzee received a Fellowship through distinction to the United Kingdom Faculty of Public Health
- Dr Elma De Vries was awarded a Fellowship by Peer Review by the College of Family Physicians in the Colleges of Medicine of South Africa
- Public health medicine registrar, Dr Tolu Oni was one of 10 new top young scientists inaugurated as a member by the SA Academy of Science
- Assoc. Prof Landon Myer and Dr Christopher Colvin were the recipients of awards for the for Top Soft-Funded Academic and Research Staff (SFARS) Awards in the
Faculty

- Dr Michael Schomaker received the International AIDS Society Young Investigator Award
- Dr Tolu Oni and Dr Virginia Zweigenthal were recipients of the Harry Crossley Foundation Senior Clinical Fellowship and Dr Oni also received the Clinical Infectious Disease Research Initiative Clinical Fellowship
- Monika Kamkuemah was awarded the David Boume prize for the top MPH graduate in 2013 and Karen Middelkoop was awarded the Ethne Jacka prize for the top MPH dissertation by a graduating candidate
- Two UCT students, Nadia Hussey (3rd year medical student) and Oluwatoyin Adeleke (an MPH graduate) were awarded HST's SAHR Emerging Public Health Practitioner Awards for their contributions to the South African Health Review
- Dr Jennifer Moodley was appointed Associate Professor and Director of Cancer Research in the Faculty of Health Sciences and appointed to the Ministerial Advisory Committee on the Prevention and Control of Cancer
- Prof Rodney Ehrlich was invited by to spend a period at the Yale University Law School and School of Public Health as a Gruber Fellow in Global Health and Justice
- Associate Professor Diane Cooper was an Invited Member of Task team convened by Harvard University on Maternal Health and HIV in sub-Saharan Africa
- Prof Mohamed Jeebhay was invited to sit on two technical taskforces of the European Academy of Allergy and Clinical Immunology (EAACI) Occupational Allergy section to develop consensus guidelines in relation to occupational allergy and asthma viz. MOCEA (measurement of airborne allergens) taskforce and Occupational Anaphylaxis taskforce.
- Professor Jeebhay was invited to deliver a presentation on occupational asthma diagnosis at the XXXII Congress of the European Academy of Allergy and Clinical Immunology and World Allergy Congress held in Milan, Italy, June 2013
- A/Prof Hanna-Andrea Rother of the COEHR, as a WHO Vector Biology and Control expert panel member chaired a UN advisory group's 7th FAO/WHO Joint Meeting on Pesticide Management of which she is a WHO nominated panel member

New Developments

- The Family Medicine Division has developed a partnership with the Health Impact Assessment Directorate of the PGWC Health Department to enhance collaboration
- The students in the BA Dr Course in semesters 3+4 now attend the Clothing Industry Industrial Council Sick fund clinic in Salt River for their teaching sessions
- The approval of a new stream in Social and Behavioural Sciences in the MPH Programme with a new course in Qualitative Data Analysis will enhance teaching in
this discipline

- The Health Policy and Systems Division and the Health Economics Division are playing a leading role (with local partners at UWC, the MRC, SUN and HST) in organising the Health Systems Global Conference which will be held in Cape Town, October 2014.

- Creating a strong and innovative base both locally and internationally in the interface between Mobile Health (MHealth) and women’s sexual and reproductive health and rights and women’s cancer notably breast and cervical cancer.