



# GRADUATION CEREMONY

*Faculty of Health Sciences*

14 July 2021

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# FACULTY OF HEALTH SCIENCES

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Graduation ceremony held virtually on 14 July 2021 due to the COVID-19 pandemic and government restrictions around indoor gatherings.

## ORDER OF PROCEEDINGS

Opening performance by amaAmbush Marimbas.

The Registrar will make introductory comments.

The Chancellor will constitute the congregation.

The National Anthem.

The University Dedication will be read by the President of the SRC.

Musical Item.

A message by the Dean of the Faculty.

The Dean will present the Distinguished Teacher Award to Professors A Argent and R Parker and the Fellowship Award to Professors L Bekker, J Blackburn, J Fagan and L Myer.

The orator will present Dr Norbert Ndjeka for the honorary degree of Doctor of Science (honoris causa)

Address by the guest speaker, Dr Norbert Ndjeka.

Graduation Poem by the imbongi.

The Chancellor will confer the qualifications.

Presentation of graduands' names.

The Vice-Chancellor will congratulate the new graduates and diplomates.

The Chancellor will congratulate the new graduates and diplomates and dissolve the congregation.

Closing performance by amaAmbush Marimbas.

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# NATIONAL ANTHEM

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Nkosi sikelel' iAfrika  
Maluphakanyisw' uphondolwayo,  
Yizwa imithandazo yethu,  
Nkosi sikelela, thina lusapho lwayo.

Morena boloka etjhaba sa heso,  
O fedise dintwa la matshwenyeho,  
O se boloke,  
O se boloke setjhaba sa heso,  
Setjhaba sa South Afrika – South Afrika.

Uit die blou van onse hemel,  
Uit die diepte van ons see,  
Oor ons ewige gebergtes,  
Waar die kranse antwoord gee,

Sounds the call to come together,  
And united we shall stand,  
Let us live and strive for freedom,  
In South Africa our land.

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## **DISTINCTIONS IN THE FACULTY OF HEALTH SCIENCES**

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Postgraduate diplomas may be awarded with distinction if the candidate has achieved 70% and above for all courses with a weighted average of at least 75%

Honours degrees are awarded by class (first, second class division one, second class division two, or third).

Master's degrees (by coursework and dissertation) may be awarded with distinction

for the dissertation, where the mark for the dissertation is at least 75%

for the degree, where the weighted average is 75% or better and no component is below 70%

Master's degrees (by dissertation) may be awarded to a candidate who achieves a mark of 75% and above for the dissertation.

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## DECLARATION FOR HEALTH SCIENCES GRADUANDS

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**AT THE TIME OF BEING ADMITTED AS A MEMBER OF THE HEALTH PROFESSION:**

I solemnly pledge to serve humanity

My most important considerations will be the health of patients and the health of their communities

I will not permit considerations of age, gender, race, religion, ethnic origin, sexual orientation, disease, disability or any other factor to adversely affect the care I give to patients

I will uphold human rights and civil liberties to advance health, even under threat

I will engage patients and colleagues as partners in healthcare

I will practise my profession with conscience and dignity

I will respect the confidentiality of patients, present or past, living or deceased

I will value research and will be guided in its conduct by the highest ethical standards

I commit myself to lifelong learning

I make these promises solemnly, freely and upon my honour.

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## DISTINGUISHED TEACHER AWARD

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The Distinguished Teacher Award, given once only to an individual, recognises teaching at any or all levels by a member of the faculty that has made a significant and lasting impression on students.

Previous recipients in the Faculty of Health Sciences have been:

2000	A Mall (Surgery)
2001	C Slater (Human Biology)
2002	J Krige (Surgery)
2003	P Berman (Chemical Pathology) G Louw (Human Biology)
2004	V Burch (Medicine)
2005	M Blockman (Pharmacology)
2012	Z Woodman (Molecular & Cellular Biology)
2014	D Khan (Surgery)
2018	R Dunn (Surgery) P Navasaria (Surgery)

The following members of the Faculty of Health Sciences have been chosen for this award in 2019:

**Professor Romy Parker**  
**Anaesthesia and Perioperative Medicine**

Professor Romy Parker, a physiotherapist who specialises in pain management in the Department of Anaesthesia and Perioperative Medicine, was nominated by a group of health sciences students whom she taught at both undergraduate and postgraduate levels. In their letter of nomination, the students, including physiotherapists, occupational therapists, anaesthetic registrars and anaesthetists, described how Professor Parker's teaching was not limited to lecture theatres but extended into the healthcare environment with students challenged to improve their clinical, research, and educational skills. "Prof Parker does not merely *lecture* her students, instead her lessons are interactive discussions encouraging critical thinking and reflection."

As a physiotherapist and a teacher, she does not identify her position as a job when asked what it is that she does. She explains: "I do not say: 'I do physiotherapy' or 'I teach'; rather my responses are 'I am a physiotherapist' or 'I am a teacher' encapsulating the idea that as an educator I do not aim to train people to do a job, I facilitate students into becoming their future selves. I believe that education should be transformative, for the learner, for the teacher, for society and in the health sciences it should be transformative for the patient receiving care. I believe that as a teacher my role is not simply to impart knowledge, but to contribute to transformation."

Prof Parker's approach to teaching is based on empowering her students by providing them with the tools they need to make informed decisions about patient care, and their own lives. Her passion for the topic of pain management has influenced several undergraduate students

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## **DISTINGUISHED TEACHER AWARD (CONTINUED)**

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to pursue pain management further, either in postgraduate studies or as an area of clinical expertise with the consequent development of pain services in diverse settings. She actively engages with the diversity in the classroom, using a scaffolded approach to shift her students from passive to active, mature learners.

These learner-centred approaches align with the patient-centred approach which is pivotal to effective pain management. Students are challenged through their learning to engage explicitly with both the content of their courses, and with the methods used to facilitate their learning and growth because both translate to the clinical care of the person with pain. As one of her students sates, this learner centred approach has been transformative: “Professor Romy Parker is an outlier, not of the maverick kind, but of the kind that bridges academic jargon with clinical relevance and closes the hierarchical gap of professorship and student.”

**Professor Andrew Argent**  
**Paediatrics and Child Health**

Professor Andrew Argent is the head of the Department of Paediatrics and Child Health and the medical director of the Paediatric Intensive Care Unit at the Red Cross Children’s Hospital. Over a lengthy career he has left a lasting impression on students and colleagues. Professor Argent has been instrumental in establishing paediatric critical care as a recognised subspecialty in South Africa.

Practice, research, teaching and training are the hallmarks of Professor Argent’s distinguished career. He teaches at both undergraduate and postgraduate level and is a sought-after supervisor. His students attest to his care, humility, respect and generosity, as well as his ability to transform the way that his students perceive paediatric patients beyond their health condition. Professor Argent’s curriculum innovations include introducing advanced courses in critical care and life support to South Africa and developing the Simulation Laboratory based at the Red Cross Children’s Hospital. He has adopted a multidisciplinary approach to training, which includes nurses and the allied health professionals with his teaching of registrars.

Present and past students laud Professor Argent’s ward rounds because of his passion for sharing, listening and engaging with students.

In the words of a colleague:

“His bedside, clinical teaching style is exemplary – the best I have ever experienced, and he is equally able to hold the attention of a thousand-fold audience when presenting on an international platform.”

Quoting a past student:

“I find myself taking a deep breath in the middle of a chaotic moment, and asking myself, ‘What would Professor Argent do here’ and that’s the teacher everyone else should have the privilege of learning from.”

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## FELLOWSHIP

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The election by Senate of a member of the faculty to be a fellow recognises sustained and original contributions through research or creative endeavour.

The fellows in the Faculty of Health Sciences and their years of election are:

2006: F Brombacher

P Meissner

2008: HJ Zar

2010: EV Lambert

A-L Williamson

2011: DJ Stein

2014: ED Sturrock

C Williamson

2015: G Hussey

N Levitt

2016: K Dheda

G Maartens

B Mayosi

V Mizrahi

R Ramesar

2017: N Mulder

2018: K Barnes

M Collins

L Gilson

M Lambert

C Lund

G Meintjes

2019: T Douglas

2020: P Zilla



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## FELLOWSHIP (CONTINUED)

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The following members of the Faculty of Health Sciences have been elected to a fellowship:

**Professor Jonathan Blackburn**

**Institute for Infectious Diseases and Molecular Medicine**

Professor Jonathan Blackburn holds undergraduate and doctoral degrees in Chemistry from Oxford University. His DPhil was carried out under the supervision of Prof Sir Jack Baldwin, FRS; he later carried out postdoctoral research at the MRC's Laboratory of Molecular Biology in Cambridge under Prof Sir Alan Fersht, FRS. After three years of postdoctoral training, in 1995 Professor Blackburn was awarded a highly prestigious, 10 year University Research Fellowship by the Royal Society which enabled him to establish an independent research group at the University of Cambridge, where he initiated research programmes in the field of directed evolution, seeking to create designer proteins through processes of random mutation and *in vitro* selection.

Professor Blackburn has an excellent track record of delivering ground-breaking scientific research in both academia and the biotech sector, first in the UK and now in South Africa. He has developed and commercialised world-leading technology in the protein microarray field and thus has expertise and direct experience as a biotech entrepreneur that is still largely unique in South Africa today. Over the past 10 years, he has raised around R20m in independent academic grant funding, a consortium grant of *ca.* R40m, *ca.* R65m in venture capital investment to finance a spin-out company, and R20m to found the CPGR.

Professor Blackburn's academic expertise ranges from the synthesis of novel enzyme substrates and inhibitors, through enzymology, protein biochemistry and molecular biology, to the creation of novel proteins. Today, he has active research programmes using his protein microarray technology for diagnostic and prognostic cancer marker discovery, as well as for the high throughput study of protein-drug selectivity. His technology has been adopted by nine of the top ten pharmaceutical companies worldwide, and is being used to develop companion diagnostic tests that predict drug response in the cancer and autoimmune disease fields. In addition, he is currently adapting his protein microarray technology to create novel serology-based surveillance tools for the Covid-19 pandemic, in order to help address the global public health crisis. However, his main research focuses on the use of quantitative mass spectrometry-based proteomic and lipidomic technologies to unravel molecular mechanisms of disease and to identify diagnostic biomarkers of disease, particularly in the tuberculosis and TB/HIV fields.

As an academic, Professor Blackburn has published roughly 95 papers in good international journals, seven book chapters with international publishers, and holds 30 granted international patents, with another eight patents still in prosecution. Moreover, he is a regularly invited speaker at international conferences today. This tally of over 140 primary outputs is testimony to his excellent achievements in the advancement and application of internationally-competitive fundamental science.

Professor Blackburn has also been actively involved in research capacity development, both overseas and in South Africa, and has supervised many postdoctoral (23; 7 current), doctoral (39; 11 current), master's (16; 3 current), and honours (18; 2 current) students. Virtually all of his former trainees have remained involved in biomedical research and some have moved into leadership positions locally and abroad. This bears testimony to his commitment and continuing performance as a supervisor and mentor to the next generation of scientists in the biotechnology field.

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## FELLOWSHIP (CONTINUED)

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In addition to his own research, Professor Blackburn plays an increasingly valuable role in scientific strategy and policy, for example: i) At UCT, he provided key strategic guidance in the split of the former Department of Clinical Laboratory Sciences and the formation of the new Departments of Integrative Biomedical Sciences and of Pathology. He is serving his second term as the Deputy Director of the Institute of Infectious Disease & Molecular Medicine and as Head the Division of Chemical & Systems Biology; ii) Nationally, he has been appointed by the Minister of Health as a Member of the National Health Research Committee, where he has played an important role in formulating a new strategy for health research, as well as advising the Health Minister on targets for government sector expenditure on health research.

He is also an elected Member of the Academy of Sciences of South Africa; iii) Internationally, he has previously served on the Biotechnology subcommittee of the International Union of Pure & Applied Chemistry and currently represents South African on IUPAC's Chemistry and Human Health Division. In addition, he has previously been elected as the first Africa-based Member of the Council of the Human Proteome Organisation (HUPO) and currently sits on the Industrial Advisory Board of HUPO. In addition, Professor Blackburn is a Member of the Foundation for National Institutes of Health (FNIH) biomarkers consortium and sits on the FNIH steering committees for Cancer, Neuroscience, and Inflammation & Immunity.

### **Professor Johannes Fagan**

#### **Department of Otorhinolaryngology**

Professor Fagan completed his internship at Groote Schuur Hospital in 1983 and obtained medical registration in South Africa in 1984. He completed the FRCS Part I in Glasgow in 1984, and practised as a medical officer in Madadeni Hospital, Newcastle in KZN from 1985 to 1986. He started training in General Surgery at Groote Schuur Hospital in 1987, and after completing three years commenced registrar training in Otorhinolaryngology, passing the FCS(SA) in Otorhinolaryngology examination of the *Colleges of Medicine* and obtaining the degree Master of Medicine in Otolaryngology from UCT in 1993. He was appointed as a consultant in the Division of Otorhinolaryngology in 1993.

Between January and July 1994 he completed training in Head and Neck Oncological Surgery at the Royal Marsden Hospital in London, and from July 1995 to June 1996 he completed a clinical fellowship in Head and Neck / Cranial Base surgery at the University of Pittsburgh in the United States. This was followed by a subsequent fellowship in Neuro-Otology and Otology at the same institution. In July 1997 to 2001 he acted as a consultant in the Division of Otolaryngology at Groote Schuur Hospital, and in January 2002 took up the Leon Goldman Chair as Professor and Head of the Division of Otolaryngology.

Professor Fagan is now a world-renowned head and neck surgeon, and has played a significant role in the advancement of head and neck oncological surgery in Africa and developing countries. He established the first Head and Neck Oncological Surgery Fellowship program at UCT to train African surgeons. Through his collaboration with Karl Storz Endoscopy he secured funding for this programme, which has trained 14 head and neck surgeons since 2005. In countries where patients previously had no access to head and neck surgery, trained fellows have now returned home to perform and teach complex oncologic procedures. This has had a significant clinical impact across Africa, reducing patient morbidity and mortality.

Professor Fagan has had more than 150 peer-reviewed articles published; 25 non peer-reviewed articles; and has authored / edited over 37 books, proceedings and book chapters collectively (with another 90 chapters in an Open Access Atlas). In 2019 he was an editor for *Paparella's Otolaryngology: Head and Neck Surgery*, a landmark 3-volume comprehensive ENT textbook. He serves on the editorial board or is advisor / reviewer for 27 ENT journals.

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## FELLOWSHIP (CONTINUED)

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Professor Fagan's most recent significant contribution has been his online *Open Access Atlas of Otolaryngology Head and Neck Operative Surgery* textbook, which is utilised by trainees and specialists across the globe, from the most remote areas to world recognised academic institutions. His detailed and comprehensive multiauthor atlas of surgical procedures has had more than 2 million chapter downloads and has been translated into Spanish and French. In 2017, he received the *Open Education Consortium (OEC) Award for Open Education Excellence* in recognition of his open access textbook.

Professor Fagan has been recognised as a keynote speaker at many international events and conferences over the last 15 years. He received the honour of being the *Eugene Myers International Lecturer in Head and Neck Oncologic Surgery* at the *American Academy of Otolaryngology Head and Neck Society (AAOHNS)* conference in Washington in 2012, was awarded the *Charles J Krause MD Lectureship Award* from the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor Institute, USA in 2014, and delivered the *John Conley lecture* at the *American Head and Neck Society (AHNS)* conference in San Diego in 2017. In 2018 he received the *Rahima Dawood Travelling Fellowship* of the *College of Surgeons of East, Central and Southern Africa (COSECSA)*, traveling to Ethiopia, Uganda, Tanzania, Rwanda, and Kenya, spending 2 months lecturing across the region.

Recognition from peers includes the *Distinguished Scholars Award* from the *Nigerian Society of ENT* for his contributions to develop ENT in Africa. He received an award for distinguished service from the *South African Society of Otorhinolaryngology* in 2012. He was awarded the *IFOS (International Fédération of Otolaryngological Society) Gold Medal* for "outstanding scientific activities and organisational work for Global Otolaryngology on its behalf" at the *IFOS World Congress* in Paris, France in 2017, and became the first African to be awarded the prestigious *AAOHNS Nikhil J Bhatt, MD International Public Service Award* in 2019, New Orleans, USA.

Professor Fagan has held key leadership positions in national, continental and international ENT societies, including *PAFOS, IFOS, AAOHNS*, and the *AHNS*. He has been executive committee member (2003 to present) of the *South African Society of Otorhinolaryngology*, and was the founder and past president of the *African Head and Neck Society*.

His commitment to postgraduate education includes leadership in the *Colleges of Medicine of South Africa (CMSA)*. He is the President of the *College of Otorhinolaryngologists* (2011 to present) and is currently the senior vice-president of the *CMSA* (2016-2022).

Without question, Professor Fagan's international standing as a world-renowned head and neck surgeon, his career-long contribution to training ENT surgeons across Africa and the developing world, and his outstanding academic contributions have brought distinction to UCT.

### **Professor Landon Myer**

#### **Department of Public Health and Family Medicine**

Landon Myer is an epidemiologist known for his contributions to the field of HIV treatment and prevention in women in southern Africa, with a specific focus on antiretroviral therapy (ART) use in pregnant and breastfeeding women living with HIV (WLH). He has made major contributions to each component of the World Health Organisation's (WHO) "four-pillar" strategy for the prevention of mother-to-child transmission of HIV (PMTCT).

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## **FELLOWSHIP (CONTINUED)**

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### **1. Preventing HIV infection in women**

Professor Myer's PhD and subsequent early work focused on generating new knowledge around women's susceptibility to HIV acquisition with particular emphasis on the vaginal microenvironment and exogenous hormones. More recently this has extended to innovative implementation science research investigating the use of Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis during pregnancy and breastfeeding.

### **2. Preventing unintended pregnancies in WLH**

Professor Myer's work in this area has been innovative and impactful in providing among the first insights into the challenges related to fertility intentions and practices in WLH and their partners in sub-Saharan Africa, as well as the first study of its kind demonstrating how widespread ART use may alter fertility in WLH. Recently, this work has evolved into studies examining contraceptive options for WLH. This body of research has helped motivate for specific guidelines related to fertility and HIV from the SA HIV Clinicians Society and the WHO.

### **3. Preventing mother-to-child transmission of HIV**

The research for which Professor Myer is best known centres on the provision of ART to pregnant and postpartum women, and focuses in particular on ART non-adherence and HIV viral load as the drivers of both transmission risk and long-term ART outcomes. This has included research investigating viral load and MTCT during pregnancy; the first detailed descriptions of the frequency of elevated viral load in WLH on ART in the postpartum period; and novel insights into the relative contributions of ART non-adherence versus pre-ART drug resistance to the incidence of elevated viral load in postpartum WLH. This work has made significant policy contributions both in SA and internationally by raising attention to challenges encountered in the management of HIV during the postpartum period. These contributions have been made in part through Professor Myer's roles on committees of the SA National Department of Health and the WHO (Antiretroviral Guidelines Development Group, 2015-present).

### **4. Ensuring long-term care and treatment for mothers living with HIV and their families**

Keeping WLH and their children (both HIV-infected and -exposed but uninfected) healthy over the long-term is increasingly recognised as the ultimate goal PMTCT services. Professor Myer has helped develop novel conceptual frameworks for thinking about women's engagement in HIV care over time. Using these frameworks he is widely known for driving the development and then testing of interventions to promote women's ART adherence and viral suppression during the postpartum period. This includes the first demonstration of how integration of ART into the maternal & child health platform improves outcomes for both mothers & infants, an approach that is now standard of care in several African countries. Further, he led the piloting then testing of a differentiated model of care that has demonstrated superiority to the standard of care in maintaining viral suppression during the postpartum period. Building on these interventions he has led advocacy for enhanced virologic monitoring during pregnancy and breastfeeding, a strategy that has since been adopted in SA and international guidance.

**Professor Linda-Gail Bekker**

**DTHC: Operations Group**

Professor Linda-Gail Bekker is an outstanding South African physician-scientist who has made major contributions to the prevention and treatment of HIV and tuberculosis (TB). As deputy director, she co-leads the Desmond Tutu HIV Centre (DTHC) at UCT with her husband and scientific collaborator, Professor Robin Wood. She is also the Chief Operations Officer and Director of the Desmond Tutu Health Foundation (DTHF), a thriving publicbenefit organisation which supports the communities in which research is conducted. Bekker is a Professor of Medicine at UCT and served as President-Elect of President of the International AIDS Society from 2014-2016, and then as President from 2016-2018. Professor Bekker has published 471 peer-reviewed journal articles that have garnered over 32,000 citations,

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## FELLOWSHIP (CONTINUED)

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several of which are intop-tier journals including *Science*, *Lancet*, *Lancet HIV*, *New England Journal of Medicine*, and *Journal of Infectious Diseases*. Her overall *h*-index on Google Scholar is 90 and her *i10*-index is 344.

Bekker's body of published work spans from hypothesis-driven, to clinical and health service research. Her work on HIV-associated TB grew out of her doctoral studies with Gilla Kaplan (Rockefeller and PHRI) on the immunopathogenesis of TB and highly productive collaborations with the late Stephen Lawn from the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, and UCT collaborators including Landon Myer and Keren Middelkoop. This work also reflects a long-standing collaboration with Barry Kreiswirth (Public Health Research Institute, NJ) on TB epidemiology and strain variation which has resulted in >40 co-authored papers. Other talented collaborators joined Bekker and her internationally recognised UCT team to make use of their field sites including Tom Harrison (St. Georges, London), who performed seminal work with Bekker and others, including Graeme Meintjes (UCT), on cryptococcal coinfection. This and other international collaborations have led to >11 further joint publications. Most recently, Bekker collaborated with colleagues at the South African TB Vaccine Initiative (UCT) on a study that has significant implications for the clinical development of new TB vaccine candidates.

Recognising that individuals were accessing treatment late with consequent additional morbidity and mortality led Bekker to explore community-based models for HIV testing. This in turn has led to the establishment of the "Tutu Testing and Treating" units, which have been used to explore the utility and feasibility of point-of-care diagnosis and screening. This model has demonstrated the value of community-based HIV, TB and non-communicable disease screening at community level. The latter was done in collaboration with the CEPAC team under Ken Freedberg's leadership at Harvard.

In the last 12 years, HIV prevention has become a major focus of Bekker's work, which has centred primarily on HIV vaccines. This has led to >30 co-authored publications and to Bekker's role as co-chair of the NIH-funded HVTN 100 and HVTN 702 protocols. Bekker has become internationally renowned for her understanding of key populations in Africa and their increased vulnerability to HIV and the many barriers to prevention services that they face. Bekker's work on men who have sex with men (MSM) in Africa led to her clinical research site being included in the pivotal global iPrEx study, which was the first to show efficacy of oral pre-exposure prophylaxis in MSM. Bekker has gone on to conduct demonstration studies of pre-exposure prophylaxis in MSM in South Africa. Much of this work has been as a result of a fruitful collaboration with Chris Beyrer (past President of the IAS) and Stef Baral from Johns Hopkins University. These key collaborations have resulted in >20 papers in the last 8 years. More recently, Bekker extended her research on pre-exposure prophylaxis to studies in African women and adolescent girls.

The other population which Bekker has championed in both treatment and prevention has been adolescents. She has developed key competencies in dealing with adolescents in collaboration with many researchers worldwide, including the HIV Vaccine Ethics Group in KwaZulu-Natal. A growing number of her publications reflect this field of interest with >30 having already been published. In 2011, Bekker raised funds for, built, and commissioned a community based comprehensive youth centre in Masiphumelele to form the hub for this adolescent focus.

Whilst HIV has been a key focus for Bekker in her adolescent division, she has also taken an adolescent-centred approach to investigating TB, bacterial and viral sexually transmitted infections, and mental health aspects of adolescent wellbeing. Bekker and her teams have developed international standard expertise in conducting a range of clinical trials in HIV, HPV, TB and other infectious diseases. Many of these trials are multi-centre, multi-country, and multi-sponsor.

Bekker has received numerous awards in recognition of her achievements. These include the Royal Society Pfizer Award for outstanding research into Tuberculosis and HIV Co- infections in Africa (2009), the UCT Ralph Kirsch Golden Pen Award presented to authors of a paper in the *South African Medical Journal* that garnered the most citations over two years following publication (2014), the UCT Alan Pifer

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## FELLOWSHIP (CONTINUED)

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Research Award shared with Prof Robin Wood in recognition of outstanding welfare-related research (2014), the South African Medical Association Merit Award (2016), the Desmond Tutu Award for HIV Prevention and Human Rights (2018), and the Academy of Science of South Africa's *Science for Society* Gold Medal Award (2018).

Finally, Bekker's standing as a thought leader in the HIV field is underscored by her co-chairing of the IAS-*Lancet* Commission on advancing global health and strengthening the HIV response in the era of the SDGs. As a highly sought-after expert in her field, she has served on numerous scientific advisory boards both locally and abroad. She is the current chair of the Global Vaccine Enterprise External Advisory Group and is a board member of the International AIDS Vaccine Initiative (IAVI), the Advocacy for Prevention of HIV and AIDS (APHA), and the AIDS Vaccine Advocacy Coalition (AVAC).

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# HONORARY DEGREE

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**NORBERT NDJEKA**

**FOR THE DOCTOR OF SCIENCE (*honoris causa*)**

Dr Norbert Ndjeka completed a Doctor of Medicine (MD) at the University of Kinshasa in the Democratic Republic of Congo, followed by a Postgraduate Diploma in Health Service Management from the University of the Witwatersrand, a Master of Medicine from the Medical University of South Africa, and a Diploma in HIV Management from the Colleges of Medicine, South Africa.

Dr Ndjeka has been the Director of Drug-Resistant Tuberculosis (DR-TB), Tuberculosis (TB) and HIV at the National Department of Health in South Africa since 2009. His primary accomplishments have been in the area of DR-TB. Under his leadership, there has been a decline in the number of cases of DR-TB in South Africa and a dramatic improvement in the proportion of patients successfully treated for DR-TB. These are accompanied by a marked reduction in mortality and drug-induced toxicity. He has strengthened the national TB programme and promoted the use of novel diagnostics and treatments.

Treatment for DR-TB until very recently had low cure rates (~50%), high mortality (~15%), and considerable toxicity. A promising new drug for DR-TB, bedaquiline, became available in 2012, but was not incorporated into international treatment guidelines because of a lack of strong evidence of efficacy and concerns about toxicity. Frustrated by this guideline paralysis, Dr Ndjeka developed an access programme for bedaquiline in patients with extensively DR-TB (who were close to being untreatable) in partnership with experienced TB hospital doctors and academics. He meticulously gathered evidence and ensured this was shared with the global TB community rapidly at scientific meetings and through papers, reaching the level of policy-makers at the World Health Organisation (WHO).

Initial results showed remarkable improvements in cure and reductions in mortality. The access programme was extended to less severe forms of DR-TB, allowing for the discontinuation of injectable TB drugs, which caused permanent severe deafness in approximately a quarter of patients. These new findings were again shared with the global community. Dr Ndjeka's vision, drive and engagement are exemplified by the fact that South Africa used more than half of global bedaquiline supplies until 2019.

The evidence generated in South Africa under his leadership has changed international guidelines, which now recommend that bedaquiline be used in all DR-TB patients and counsel against the use of injectables. He has continued the same model for the introduction of newer DR-TB regimens in South Africa.

Dr Ndjeka's exceptional achievements in the treatment of DR-TB have resulted from a unique blend of public service, activism and research, and make him a worthy candidate for an honorary doctorate from UCT.



## FACULTY OF HEALTH SCIENCES

Dean: Associate Professor LP  
Green-Thompson

### DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY

Alves de Souza Rios, Leonardo  
Thesis Title: *Understanding the molecular pathogenesis of HIV-associated Burkitt lymphoma – the impact of HIV-1 protein Tat on lymphoma driver genes*

Leonardo Alves de Souza Rios holds a BSc in Molecular Biology and Biotechnology from Stellenbosch University and a BSc(Med)(Hons) in Cell Biology from UCT. He enrolled for an MSc(Med) in Haematology in 2016, and upgraded to a PhD degree in 2017.

Leonardo Alves de Souza Rios' PhD research focuses on defining the molecular events which drive the development of non-Hodgkin lymphoma in HIV positive patients. In particular, he interrogated the role of a specific HIV protein in promoting Burkitt lymphoma, a highly aggressive cancer, which is also the most prevalent type of lymphoma among people infected with the virus in South Africa. His research reveals novel interactions between the HIV protein Tat, and two key driver genes of Burkitt lymphoma pathogenesis. This includes uncovering novel interactions between viral and host proteins, as well as alterations of cellular pathways involving microRNAs. The thesis adds to a growing body of evidence which demonstrates that HIV and its components can drive oncogenic pathways in host cells, predisposing HIV-infected individuals to developing lymphoma. This work will assist in improving the treatment and prognosis of HIV positive patients who develop non-Hodgkin lymphoma.

Supervisor: Dr. Shaheen Mowla  
(Haematology)

Antel, Katherine Rae  
Thesis Title: *Lymphoma: understanding the diagnostic challenges and improving outcomes in a TB- and HIV-endemic area*

Katherine Antel is a clinical haematologist who works in the field of lymphoma. She qualified as a specialist physician at UCT in 2014. In 2017, she finished her sub-speciality certification in Clinical Haematology and subsequently continued her doctoral research in Haematology (Pathology and Medicine).

Katherine Antel studied the local landscape of aggressive lymphoma subtypes and the factors associated with delays in their diagnostic pathway. Her thesis examines the need to improve the diagnostic pathway for patients with lymphoma. She highlights the obstacles to the diagnosis of lymphoma, including the problems of misdiagnosis with TB and in accessing a diagnostic biopsy. The diagnostic utility of a genetic TB test (the Xpert Ultra) and a core-biopsy using an automated technique were evaluated for the diagnosis of TB and lymphoma respectively. The findings from this thesis were used to develop a diagnostic algorithm for the evaluation of patients with lymph node enlargement, in order to shorten the time-to-diagnosis of lymphoma in a TB- and HIV-endemic setting.

Supervisor: Professor E Verburch  
(Medicine)  
Co-supervisors: Professor G Maartens  
(Medicine); Professor V Louw  
(Medicine)

Awany, Denis  
Thesis Title: *Leveraging the microbiome in host genome wide association study*

Denis Awany completed his BSc at Makerere University in 2011, MSc from Makerere University in 2014, and his second MSc degree from the African Institute for Mathematical Sciences in 2016.

Denis Awany's thesis explores the role of human genotype and the microbiome on various human traits and diseases, and the interaction of human genetic variation with the microbiome.

He proposes a framework to integrate human genotype and microbiome to understand the basis of human traits and diseases. He also investigates the relationship between microbial species, in terms of Operational Taxonomic Units (OTUs), and the clinical state of its human host. This allowed him to develop a Bayesian statistical framework for identifying microbial OTUs associated with a given clinical outcome of the host. These results have considerable promise in elucidating the basis and pathogenesis of complex human diseases.

Supervisor: A/Professor E Chimusa  
(Pathology)  
Co-supervisor: Professor C Dandara  
(Pathology)

Barnett, Whitney Christine  
Thesis Title: *Intergenerational effects: child and maternal outcomes related to exposure to intimate partner violence and trauma in a South African community*

Whitney Barnett holds a BA from the University of North Carolina, USA. She received her MPH from UCT in 2012 and began her PhD in 2017. Before beginning her PhD, she worked as a project manager on the Drakenstein Child Health Study in the Department of Paediatrics, UCT.

Whitney Barnett's thesis focuses on maternal intimate partner violence and the impact on their children's growth and development. She uses data from the Drakenstein Child Health Study, a South African birth cohort. She finds a high prevalence of maternal intimate partner violence during and after pregnancy and that this is associated with food insecurity in pregnancy, reduced infant growth and poorer child development at two years of age. Furthermore, that emotional in addition to physical intimate partner violence is a risk factor for these child health outcomes. She investigates pathways through which maternal intimate partner violence might impact child health outcomes, finding that maternal depression and substance use partially explains relationships between intimate partner violence and food insecurity as well as reduced child



growth in this cohort. These findings are important to inform how future intervention efforts might mitigate the risk of negative outcomes in young children exposed to IPV.

*Supervisor:* Professor Dan J Stein (Psychiatry)

*Co-supervisors:* Professor Kirsten A Donald (Paediatrics); Professor Sarah Halligan (Psychology, University of Bath, UK)

Botha, Michelle Robyn

*Thesis Title: Blindness, rehabilitation and identity: a critical investigation of discourses of rehabilitation in South African non-profit organisations for visually impaired persons*

Michelle Botha holds an MSocSc in Gender Studies from UCT. Before embarking on full-time study towards her PhD in 2017, she was employed in the South African visual impairment nonprofit organization sector, providing career development support for adults with visual impairment.

Michelle Botha's thesis investigates the unexplored role of rehabilitation in shaping the self-identity of visually impaired persons. Drawing on Foucauldian concepts, she traces an interplay between discourse and power-knowledge in South African blindness rehabilitation services, uncovering mechanisms which support the unequal social positioning of people with visual impairments. Discourse analysis of extensive documentary and interview data renders a meticulously argued picture of ideological assumptions underpinning the practices of rehabilitation. This functions in part as a normalizing apparatus for the creation of docile disabled subjects. Within this milieu of unspoken assumptions about blindness, we discover that people who lose their sight are drawn into a complex re-negotiation of self, value and place. This study prompts consideration of the impact of an imbalance of power in rehabilitation that remains largely undisturbed, posing critical questions for our democracy about empowerment and citizenship in the lives of disabled people.

*Supervisor:* Dr B Watermeyer (Health and Rehabilitation Sciences)

Buchholtz, Kim Anne

*Thesis Title: Balance and agility in mountain bikers: a reliability and validity study on skills affecting control in mountain biking*

Kim Buchholtz holds a BSc in Physiotherapy and MPhil Sports Physiotherapy degree from UCT. She started her PhD in Exercise Science in 2017 while working part-time at UCT and managing a physiotherapy private practice.

Kim Buchholtz's thesis focuses on the incidence of injury and the factors affecting injury in mountain biking. Following a systematic review on the incidence and severity of injury in cross-country marathon mountain bikers, she developed tests to assess the factors relating to bicycle control, namely bicycle specific balance and agility. She assessed the clinimetric properties of these tests to show they are valid and reliable tests to assess performance in mountain bikers. Using these tests, she assessed the effect of physically and cognitively fatiguing protocols on bicycle specific balance and agility. While physical fatigue increased the perceived effort on the balance and agility tests, there were no changes in performance following either of the fatiguing protocols. These tests are suitable for assessing performance in mountain bikers and should be further assessed for their ability to predict the risk of falling and injury in mountain bikers.

*Supervisor:* Professor M Lambert (Human Biology)

*Co-supervisor:* Dr T Burgess (Human Biology)

Chivese, Tawanda

*Thesis Title: Type 2 diabetes, cardiovascular risk factors and off-spring overweight and obesity 5 to 6 years after hyperglycaemia first detected in pregnancy in Cape Town, South Africa*

Tawanda Chivese has an MSc in Clinical Epidemiology from Stellenbosch University. He joined the Chronic Disease Initiative for Africa in the Department of Medicine in 2015.

His doctoral thesis focused on the burden of type 2 diabetes in African women of childbearing age and type 2 diabetes and cardiovascular disease in women in Africa and their offspring within 6 years after a pregnancy complicated with hyperglycaemia first detected in pregnancy (HFDP) in South Africa. Using a systematic review and meta-analysis, he found that one in every 11 African women of childbearing age has type 2 diabetes. After studying women and their offspring during the period of 5-6 years after a pregnancy complicated by hyperglycaemia first detected in pregnancy, he found that half of the women had diabetes and half were at high risk of cardiovascular disease. He also found that one-third of the women's children were either overweight or obese at preschool age. Therefore, maternal glucose levels during the pregnancy impacted both the mother and the child's cardiovascular health within 6 years of the pregnancy. He recommends the need to prevent hyperglycaemia first detected in pregnancy by optimising preconception health, and further, that both mothers and their children need to be followed up postnatally, with interventions to reduce the risk of cardiovascular disease in both mother and child.

*Supervisor:* Professor N. S. Levitt (Medicine)

*Co-supervisor:* Professor S. A. Norris (Paediatrics)

Cunnama, Lucy

*Thesis Title: Economic evaluation of models of prevention of mother-to-child transmission of HIV intervention for large scale implementation*

Lucy Cunnama completed her BScHons in Physiotherapy in 2008 and Master's in Public Health specialising in Health Economics in 2011 at UCT. She joined the Health Economics Unit as a researcher in 2012, and first registered for her PhD in 2016.

Lucy Cunnama's dissertation investigates the costs and cost-effectiveness different models of care for the prevention of mother-to-child transmission of HIV as well as the financial impact of scaling-up

these models. In Eswatini during the Safe Generations study she assessed the costs and cost-effectiveness of lifelong antiretroviral therapy started in pregnancy, which was implemented countrywide during the study. Three postpartum models of care were assessed in Gugulethu during MCH-ART and PACER studies and the Community Care model using community adherence clubs was found to be the most cost-effective model for mother-infant pairs. Scaling-up Community Care nationally in South Africa would require 0.2% more of the total health budget than Routine Care although the recommendation is that a combination of Community, Routine and Integrated Care be used to better cater to the needs and preferences of women living with HIV. These results will be useful for budgeting and planning for HIV.

*Supervisor:* Associate Professor Edina Sinanovic (Health Economics, Public Health)

*Co-supervisor:* Professor Landon Myer (Epidemiology, Public Health)

Davies, Claire Thandiwe

*Thesis Title: When things fall apart and when they come together: tracing the processes of a task-shared intervention for perinatal depression in South Africa*

Claire Thandiwe Davies holds a BPsych from the University of Kwa-Zulu Natal and MPhil in Sociology from UCT. She has worked at the Centre for Public Mental Health since 2012, and began her PhD study in 2015.

Thandiwe Davies' thesis reports on a process evaluation of a counselling intervention for perinatal depression in South Africa, using community health workers as counsellors (AFFIRM-SA). She extracted two models of processes that may have influenced depressive symptom outcomes of the intervention. The first posits that the intervention did not meet the contextual needs of either the counsellors or the participants, and therefore did not disrupt the poverty-related 'mechanisms' associated with perinatal depression. The second suggests that despite this, the counselling sessions provided a sense of connection and a

subsequent buffer of resilience to handle every-day stressors. However, this buffer could not provide longer-term resilience against the context of unemployment, interpersonal abuse, and trauma. The thesis presents a range of contextual considerations and therapeutic elements relevant to designing and implementing more acceptable and responsive public mental health interventions to improve perinatal depression in South Africa and other low- and middle-income countries.

*Supervisor:* A/Professor Marguerite Schneider (Psychiatry and Mental Health)

*Co-supervisor:* Professor Crick Lund (Psychiatry and Mental Health)

de Lange, Anja

*Thesis Title: Exploring molecular and cellular mechanism underlying seizures in neurocysticercosis*

Anja de Lange completed her BSc qualification at Rhodes University, and subsequently obtained her BSc(Hons) qualification from UCT. She began full-time study towards her PhD in 2016.

Anja de Lange's thesis explores several mechanisms which could help explain why seizures are often experienced by patients with neurocysticercosis, a disease in which larvae of the tapeworm *Taenia solium* lodge in the brains of humans. To accomplish this, she developed and utilised several novel model systems of neurocysticercosis by combining elements of a model parasite, *Taenia crassiceps*, with mouse hippocampal brain slice cultures. Using electrophysiological techniques, molecular assays and tissue staining techniques, Anja discovered that *Taenia* larvae produce two molecules (glutamate and acetylcholinesterases), which can disrupt brain signalling and may potentially contribute to seizures in neurocysticercosis. She further found that *Taenia* larvae can powerfully modulate the host's immune response, which is thought to play a central role in seizure development in this disease. These findings present a significant contribution to the field and may inform the development of better treatments for neurocysticercosis and for other central

nervous system disorders.

*Supervisor:* Dr JV Raimondo (Human Biology)

Ellman-November, Nicole Anne

*Thesis Title: Adipose tissue oxidative stress and antioxidant systems and its association with insulin resistance*

Nicole Ellman holds a BSc specialising in Microbiology and Genetics, and a BScHons degree in Molecular and Cell Biology, both from UCT. She started her PhD in the Department of Human Biology in 2015.

Nicole Ellman's thesis investigates the associations between adipose tissue oxidative stress and cardio-metabolic risk in two study cohorts. Her findings demonstrate that markers of oxidative stress and antioxidant systems differed by adipose tissue depots, BMI categories and ethnicity and were positively associated with cardio-metabolic risk. The results of this thesis also support the hypothesis that antioxidants may increase in abdominal subcutaneous adipose tissue as compensatory responses to obesity-induced oxidative stress and cardio-metabolic risk. Her study is the first to demonstrate the associations between the expression of reactive-species producing enzymes, biomarkers of oxidative stress and antioxidants and cardio-metabolic risk in these adipose depots. These novel findings provide a proof of concept for future studies.

*Supervisor:* Dr D Keswell (Human Biology)

*Co-supervisor:* Professor J Goedecke (Human Biology)

Frigati, Lisa Jane

*Thesis Title: Spectrum, progression and predictors of morbidity in perinatally HIV-infected adolescents on antiretroviral therapy*

Lisa Jane Frigati holds a Master's in Paediatrics from UCT and a Master's in Tropical Medicine and International Health from the London School of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene in the

UK. The main focus of her work is on children and adolescents that are living with HIV and Tuberculosis.

Lisa Jane Frigati's thesis focuses on the health issues of adolescents who were born with, or contracted HIV in early childhood. She first describes underlying risk factors that may predispose them to cardiovascular disease in later life. Then she documents that they often have impairment of not only one but many organ systems. Despite being on antiretroviral therapy for an average of seven years, adolescents with HIV have a higher rate of hospitalisation (due to infectious and non-infectious causes) than HIV negative adolescents of a similar age group and community. They also have a higher rate of Tuberculosis disease, despite similar rates of Tuberculosis infection.

*Supervisor:* Professor H Zar (Health Sciences)

*Co-supervisors:* Professor Landon Myer (Public Health); Professor Mark Cotton (Health Sciences, Stellenbosch University)

Jones, Shelby Ann

Thesis Title: *The role of Lymphoblastic leukemia 1 (Lyl1) in Mycobacterium tuberculosis (Mtb) infection*

Shelby-Sara Ann Jones completed her BSc, BSc (Hons) and MSc qualifications at the University of the Western Cape, specialising in Biotechnology. She registered at UCT as a full time PhD student in Clinical Science and Immunology in 2017.

Shelby-Sara Ann Jones' thesis focuses on identifying the role of a well-studied cancer gene, Lymphoblastic leukemia 1 (Lyl1), during bacterial diseases, including listeriosis and tuberculosis. With the use of Lyl1 deficient mouse model, she uncovered a significant role for this gene during mycobacterial infections. She demonstrated that Lyl1 deficient mice were severely susceptible to Mycobacterium tuberculosis infection by increased mycobacterial burdens and neutrophilic inflammation. Additionally, she further identified the regulatory mechanisms that control Lyl1 expression and function in primary macrophages

during immune activation. Shelby-Sara describes non-leukemia involved novel functions of Lyl1 using intracellular bacterial infections as a model. Given the difference in Lyl1 expression patterns in response cancer and bacterial infections, these findings provide great potential in further establishing a role for this gene in various disease models to identify genetic targets for the development of host-directed therapies.

*Supervisor:* Professor Frank Brombacher (Health Science, Pathology)  
*Co-supervisors:* Doctor Mumin Ozturk (Health Science, Pathology); sociate Professor Reto Guler (Health Science, Pathology)

Khan, Mohsin

Thesis Title: *The molecular role of TBX3 in malignant melanoma*

Mohsin Khan holds a BS and MPhil in Microbiology from Hazara University, Pakistan. He registered for a PhD at UCT in 2016, before which he worked in Dr AQ Khan's Research Laboratories and Leady Reading Hospital diagnostic laboratories in Pakistan.

Mohsin Khan's thesis investigates the molecular mechanism underpinning malignant melanoma by focusing on the role and regulation of the T-box transcription factor 3, a key driver of this disease. His project explores the protein co-factors that partners with TBX3 and the downstream target genes that are responsible for promoting key features of malignant melanoma. His project reveals novel mechanisms for targeting the TBX3 oncogenic signalling pathway at multiple points to provide more effective treatment options for malignant melanoma. He reports that the heat shock cognate 70 stabilises TBX3 and that nucleolin co-operates with TBX3 to promote melanoma cell migration. Furthermore, the project reports that TBX3 inhibits the expression of its downstream tumour suppresser target gene CERS1, to promote melanoma cell survival and drug resistance.

*Supervisor:* Professor S Prince (Medical Cell Biology)

Kieswetter, Nathan Scott

Thesis Title: *Remodelling of mycobacterial peptidoglycan during cell division and the epigenetics of macrophages during M. tuberculosis infection*

Nathan Kieswetter holds a BSc(Hons) and MMedSci in Biological Sciences and Virology from the University of KwaZulu-Natal, where he studied the immunological interactions of TB and HIV coinfection. He commenced his PhD studies at UCT in 2017.

Nathan Kieswetter's dissertation focuses on the characterization of the host immune response to Mycobacterium tuberculosis mutants which are deficient in two genes (Ami1 and Ami4) important in the maintenance of the bacterial cell wall. From his data, he found that the loss of either of these genes significantly altered host inflammation as well as cellular recruitment during infection. He also reported interesting antibiotic interactions with the Ami1 knockout Mtb strain. This work sheds light on the immune mechanisms involved in TB and informs on novel gene targets for therapeutic intervention. Additionally, Nathan also optimised a method to better assess the changing transcriptomic and epigenetic landscape which is altered in primary human macrophages during Mycobacterium tuberculosis infection. The work contributes to a better understanding of the genetic dynamics involved in TB as well as to discover new mechanisms of sensitivity or survival.

*Supervisor:* A/Professor Reto Guler (Pathology)

*Co-supervisor:* Professor F Brombacher (Pathology); Dr M Ozturk (Pathology)

Kiravu, Agano Cheddi

Thesis Title: *Cellular Immune Ontogeny and birth Transcriptome in HIV-exposed uninfected infants*

Agano Kiravu completed his BSc in Biochemistry, BScMedHon in Infectious Diseases and Immunology, and MScMed at UCT, and began full-time study towards his PhD in 2015.

Agano Kiravu compared gene

expression differences between infants who are born to HIV-infected mothers (termed HIV-exposed uninfected infants) with those children born to healthy HIV negative mothers. The focus of his study was whether differences exist in: i) immunity of T cells in blood over the first 9 months of life and ii) genes expressed in the blood at birth. There were subtle differences in the ability of T cells responding to BCG vaccination at 1 week of life, but thereafter was normalized. Genes that regulate glucose metabolism were increased in blood at birth from HIV-exposed uninfected infants, suggesting perturbed energy availability in these children. Thus, HIV exposure does not adversely affect infant vaccine responses but more on energy metabolism.

*Supervisor:* Professor Clive Gray (Immunology)  
*Co-supervisor:* Associate Professor Heather Jaspan (Immunology)

Lebina, Limakatso Pearl  
Thesis Title: *Fidelity and costs of implementing the integrated chronic disease management model in South Africa*

Limakatso Lebina holds a MBChB degree from UCT and a master's degree in Public Health from the University of Liverpool. She started her PhD studies in 2017 and is currently a researcher at the Perinatal HIV Research Unit of the University of the Witwatersrand.

Limakatso Lebina's thesis assesses the level of adherence to the Integrated Chronic Disease Management Model (ICDM) manual in primary healthcare clinics in South Africa. The ICDM model was initiated to improve efficiency and quality of care for patients with chronic diseases, and it is not clear whether failure to achieve some of these objectives are as a result of poor adherence or inherent design faults of the model. In addition, the impact of contextual factors and costs of implementing the ICDM model are evaluated. Clinics had different levels of adherence to the ICDM model guidelines, and there were several interrelated contextual factors that influenced adherence such

as infrastructure, organisational culture and mentorship. She recommends that interventions to enhance adherence should be tailored to activities that are poorly implemented. Furthermore, she recommends that providing training, improving infrastructure and strengthening supply chain management would further enhance adherence to the ICDM model guidelines.

*Supervisor:* Dr OA Alaba (Public Health and Family Medicine)  
*Co-supervisors:* Professor T Oni (MRC Epidemiology Unit, University of Cambridge; Dr M Kawonga (Community Health, University of the Witwatersrand)

Makkink, Andrew William  
Thesis Title: *Development of a model to address the content, process and communication aspects of emergency centre handover*

Andrew Makkink holds a National Diploma in Mine Surveying, a National Diploma and BTech in Emergency Medical Care and a PGDip in Tertiary Education. He joined the University of Johannesburg's Department of Emergency Medical Care in 2008. He is the current president of the Emergency Care Society of South Africa.

Andrew Makkink's thesis focuses on the content, process and communication aspects of emergency centre handover between prehospital emergency care deliverers and emergency centre receivers of patient handover. He further investigates factors that have the potential to affect the efficacy of handover. He uses a mixed methods design to answer the research question. He starts out using a paper-based questionnaire followed by face-to-face interviews to gather data. The data are used to develop a model that proposes that emergency centre handover is a bidirectional process made up of five distinct phases. Content, process and communication aspects affecting handover are explored at each phase of the handover process. He extends his research by suggesting strategies at each of the five phases of the model that have the potential to improve the emergency

centre handover process.

*Supervisor:* A/Professor SR Bruijns (Surgery)  
*Co-supervisor:* Professor COA Stein (University of Johannesburg, Emergency Medical Care)

Mehломakulu, Vuyelwa Eullicia  
Thesis Title: *An assessment of external HIV-related stigma in South Africa: implications for interventions*

Vuyelwa Mehломakulu holds an MA in Psychology from Stellenbosch University and a Master's in Public Health from UCT. She has made important contributions in the field of HIV while working as a public health scientist in research councils as well as universities.

Vuyelwa Mehломakulu's thesis focuses on external HIV-related stigma in the South African population as a hindrance in the fight against HIV. She examined the extent of external HIV-related stigma and associated causes using both exploratory statistics and structural equation modelling techniques. The findings of this study highlight the need for the development of new, innovative and effective interventions to reduce external HIV-related stigma in our communities. As no such study has been done before her research provides an important platform to reduce external HIV-related stigma in South Africa as a pathway to effectively fight and contain the spread of HIV infection, as well as to ensure continuity in the care cascade. The study used a large nationally representative sample, which allows for the results to be generalised across the South African and potentially other resource-limited settings.

*Supervisor:* Professor LC Simbayi (Psychiatry and Mental Health)  
*Co-supervisors:* Professor J Joska (Psychiatry and Mental Health); Professor PS Nyasulu (Epidemiology & Biostatistics, University of Stellenbosch)



Mfolozi, Siph

Thesis Title: *A numerical protocol for death-time estimation*

Siph Mfolozi holds an MBChB from UCT, is a Diplomate in Forensic Medicine (SA), and a Fellow of the College of Forensic Pathologists (SA). He further holds an MMed in Forensic Pathology from UCT, and is the inventor of a patented electronic device for estimating the postmortem interval of a corpse.

Numerical death-time estimation is a relatively new field in forensic pathology. Siph Mfolozi advances on the state-of-the-art in this field in four areas. The first investigates numerical approximation of antemortem axial temperature distribution. The results indicate nonlinear axial temperature distribution, inhomogeneous organ temperature distribution and influence of organ thermophysical and biothermal parameters on the position of the antemortem central isotherm. The second investigates axial postmortem heat transfer. The results identify single-point deep-core thermometry as the major source of uncertainty in death-time estimation (being responsible for the postmortem temperature plateau phenomenon, among others); that temperature and thermophysical properties of a ground-surface shift the postmortem central isotherm, and that the postmortem axial isotherm profile is specific to a given postmortem interval. The third proposes a multipoint axial thermometry device and demonstrates its application. The fourth proposes a numerical protocol of death-time estimation that applies multipoint axial thermometry and demonstrates its application.

*Supervisor:* Professor AG Malan (Mechanical Engineering)

*Co-supervisor:* Professor T Bello-Ochende (Mechanical Engineering)

*Co-supervisor:* Professor LJ Martin (Forensic Pathology)

Mkumbuzi, Nonhlanhla Sharon

Thesis Title: *The aetiology of pain in chronic midportion Achilles tendinopathy*

Sharon Mkumbuzi holds a BSc(Hons) in Physiotherapy and MPhil in Exercise Physiology degree from the University of Zimbabwe. She worked as a physiotherapist for Zimbabwe's national sports teams and joined the Division of Exercise Science and Sports Medicine at UCT in 2015 for her PhD.

Sharon Mkumbuzi's thesis focuses on the mechanisms of pain in chronic Achilles tendinopathy by characterising the language of the pain using multidimensional pain questionnaires and its relationship with tendon structure, central pain mechanisms and selected gene variants. The novel findings suggest that the language of Achilles tendon pain ought to be further investigated as it may extend our knowledge of the underlying tendon pain mechanisms. In addition, that Achilles tendon pain interferes with more than physical and sporting ability should be considered in the overall management of this condition in athletes. The findings suggested that using pain as a primary outcome measure in rehabilitation may be insufficient and highlights the need to further study the relationship between tendon structure, imaging and pain. Another novel finding of this thesis was the association between COMT and tendon pain, suggesting that the catecholaminergic pathway is involved in the tendon pain pathway.

*Supervisor:* Professor M Collins (Human Biology)

*Co-supervisors:* Professor A September (Human Biology) and Dr M Posthumus (Human Biology)

Mokitimi, Stella

Thesis Title: *Child and adolescent mental health services in the Western Cape of South Africa: policy evaluation, situational analysis, stakeholder perspectives, and implications for health policy implementation*

Stella Mokitimi holds a BCur (Honours) degree in nursing from the University of Fort Hare, and an MCur degree from

the University of the Western Cape. She worked in various mental health settings before joining Red Cross War Memorial Children's Hospital. She started her PhD studies in 2015.

Stella Mokitimi's thesis focuses on understanding the landscape for child and adolescent mental health in South Africa with the aim of proposing strategies to strengthen services in the country. She uses the Western Cape as a 'case study' and collects multi-level data to understand the needs, existing resource and policy landscapes, and perspectives of service managers, grassroots providers and users. Although mental health problems represent the greatest burden of disease in under 18-year-olds, she finds a complete lack of implementation of mental health policies for children and adolescents and significant gaps in existing health systems, particularly in rural districts. She provides evidence of a lack of 'Batho Pele' (people first) in the service experience of users. She integrates her findings in terms of the hardware (structural) and software (social) elements and building blocks of health systems and concludes with recommendations for policymaking, service development, training and research.

*Supervisor:* Professor PJ de Vries (Psychiatry and Mental Health)

*Co-supervisor:* A/Professor M Schneider (Psychiatry and Mental Health)

Mosala, Paballo Pertunia

Thesis Title: *The role of cysteinyl leukotriene receptor-1 during experimental helminth infections in murine model*

Paballo Mosala obtained her BSc in Natural Sciences in 2013 and BSc(Hons) Zoology in 2014, both at the University of the Free State. She subsequently completed her MSc in Zoology at North-West University in 2017. She then joined the Faculty of Health Sciences at UCT to undertake her PhD studies in Clinical Sciences and Immunology.

Paballo Mosala's thesis investigated the role of cysteinyl leukotrienes signaling via cysteinyl

leukotriene receptor-1 (cysLTR1) in the development of host protective immune responses to helminth infections in mice model. Her work first investigates the role of cysLTR1 under steady state conditions using cysLTR1 deficient mice, and this revealed that cysLTR1 was not required to maintain homeostasis under steady state in mice. Her research further revealed an essential role of cysLTR1 in orchestrating host protective responses to primary and secondary *Nippostrongylus brasiliensis* infection in mice. She further showed that mice lacking cysLTR1 had significantly reduced fibrogranulomatous pathology in the liver during chronic schistosomiasis which was associated with impaired production of IL-4 in the liver and reduced intracellular secretion of IL-4 by CD4<sup>+</sup> T cells and ILC2s in cysLTR1 deficient mice compared with control mice, suggesting that cysLTR1 could be targeted as a potential therapy for control tissue pathology during schistosomiasis.

*Supervisor:* Professor Frank Brombacher (Pathology)  
*Co-supervisor:* Dr. Hlumani Ndlovu (Chemical and Systems Biology)

Mpotje, Thabo Rantanta Victor  
Thesis Title: *The role of host and microbial factors in the pathogenesis of chronic Schistosomiasis in mice*

Thabo Mpotje completed a BSc in Biochemistry through UCT, and a BSc(Hons) in Zoology at the University of the Free State. He then worked as a research technician for National Research Foundation. He again joined UCT to pursue his master's and PhD in Clinical Sciences and Immunology.

Thabo Mpotje's thesis addresses the complex interrelationships that exist between commensal microbiota, host genetic factors, and as well as the immune system in order to fight of Helminth infections that cause Schistosomiasis disease. He used murine models which allowed for manipulation of the commensal microbiota, as well as a host genetic factor known as Basic Leucine Zipper ATF-Like Transcription Factor 2 (Batf2). He was able to demonstrate the ability of the Batf2 gene

to induce changes to the composition of commensal microbiota which all resulted in activation of protective immune responses and improved fitness of infected hosts during chronic Schistosomiasis. This work, therefore, demonstrates a potential therapeutic approach for reversing the helminth-induced pathology in infected hosts.

*Supervisor:* Professor F. Brombacher (Medicine)  
*Co-supervisor:* Doctor. J. K. Nono (Medicine)

Mulisa, Delesa Damena  
Thesis Title: *Dissecting the genetic basis of severe malaria resistance using Genome-wide and post Genome-wide association study approaches*

Delesa Damena holds a DVM and MSc degree in Medical Microbiology from Addis Ababa University, Ethiopia. He attended advanced molecular and bioinformatics training at the International Atomic Energy Agency, Vienna, Austria. Before joining UCT in 2017, he worked on genetic studies of infectious diseases including Tuberculosis and Avian Influenza in Ethiopia.

Delesa Damena's thesis focuses on the investigation of human genetic resistance to severe Malaria. He prepared African population specific reference panel for malaria datasets which can potentially be used for other Linkage Disequilibrium-based studies in African populations. He showed for the first time that malaria resistance is polygenic trait and that the causal variants are overrepresented around protein coding regions of the genome. By applying several gene-based, pathway-level and network-level functional analyses to GWAS summary statistics dataset (N=17,000) meta-analysed across eleven populations in malaria endemic regions in Africa, Asia and Oceania, he identified 57 candidate genes located in the known malaria genomic loci and additional 125 genes across the genome. He showed that the identified genes were significantly enriched in malaria pathogenic pathways. These findings laid the foundations of future experimental studies which can potentially lead to translational medicine

including the development of vaccine and new therapeutics.

*Supervisor:* Professor Emile R Chimusa (Human Genetics)

Ndlovu, Sandy Sibusiso  
Thesis Title: *Genetic characterisation of six novel African swine fever viruses isolates from a pig, warthog, wild boar, and ticks*

Sandy Sibusiso Ndlovu holds a master's degree in Medical Virology from the University of Limpopo. He joined the Division of Medical Virology at UCT in 2014 for his PhD while based at the Agricultural Research Council (ARC-OVI), working on the African swine fever virus (ASFV).

Sandy Sibusiso Ndlovu's thesis focuses on whole-genome sequencing and annotations of six novel ASFV isolates of African origin that were isolated from a pig, warthog, wild boar and ticks. The lack of diverse genome sequences has been identified as one of the major gaps in this field and this work adds to the knowledge on ASFV in Africa. After an in-depth analysis of the sequences of each virus he further investigated the multigene families (MGFs) by sorting and clustering, based on genotype, serogroup, country, host, virulence, and year, to identify which variables are associated with arrangement patterns of the MGFs found among the ASFV isolates. The gene arrangements of the MGFs were associated with the geographical origin and epidemiology of the isolates. Although p72 gene is sufficiently genetically diverse to discriminate between genotypes, it lacks the capacity for higher resolution between isolates belonging to the same genotype. To address this limitation, he identified five novel phylogenetic markers in the central conserved region of the genome which discriminated between closely related ASFV isolates that cluster together by grouping the isolates into sub-clusters.

*Supervisor:* Professor Anna-Lise Williamson (Pathology)  
*Co-supervisors:* Dr Olivia Carulei (Pathology); Dr Livio Heath (Agricultural Research Council)

Njau, Bernard Joseph

Thesis Title: *A multi-component theory-based behaviour change intervention to increase HIV self-testing uptake and linkage to HIV prevention, care and treatment among hard to reach adults in Northern Tanzania*

Bernard Njau holds an MPH degree from the Kilimanjaro Christian Medical University College in Tanzania. He joined the School of Public Health and Family Medicine at UCT in 2014 for his PhD studies.

Bernard Njau's thesis focuses on HIV testing services, particularly on HIV Self-Testing (HIVST) in Northern Tanzania. He investigates factors, which could deter or facilitate the uptake of HIVST among male mountain climbing porters of Mount Kilimanjaro and female bar workers. He started by reviewing the existing evidence on the effects of HIVST on uptake of testing, social harms, and linkage to HIV care among adults in Africa. The results showed that HIVST has the potential to reach populations that were previously hard to reach, particularly those who have never tested before for HIV. He then explored perceptions of key informants, community members and representatives of the target population related to HIVST to inform the development of the intervention. He developed the intervention and later evaluated the effects of the HIVST intervention, finding high acceptability and uptake of HIVST among the target population. These findings will be useful in informing HIVST policy in Tanzania.

*Supervisor:* A/Professor C Mathews (Public Health and Family Medicine)  
*Co-supervisor:* A/Professor A Boulle (Public Health and Family Medicine)

Redhi, Devasha

Thesis title: *A pharmacokinetic and antimalarial efficacy evaluation of pyridodibemequines and their metabolites*

Devasha Redhi holds a BSc and BSc(Med)(Hons) from UCT. She joined the Division of Clinical Pharmacology in 2015 to complete her honours degree and upgraded her MSc to a PhD in 2017.

Devasha Redhi's thesis presents the early preclinical evaluation of a novel series of antimalarial compounds and their metabolites by assessing their in vivo pharmacokinetics and pharmacodynamics in healthy and malaria infected murine models. The rationally selected lead candidates were efficacious against *P. falciparum* infection in a humanised murine model and demonstrated in vivo antimalarial activities comparable to several clinically relevant antimalarials. Additionally, the selected lead candidates have preliminarily demonstrated their potential to be used as a synergistic partner drug in combination therapy. This study revealed two antimalarial candidates with good prospects to progress for further preclinical drug development.

*Supervisor:* A/Professor L Wiesner (Medicine)  
*Co-supervisor:* Professor T J Egan (Chemistry)

Salaam-Dreyer, Zubeida

Thesis Title: *The epidemiology and evolution of rifampicin mono resistant tuberculosis in Khayelitsha, Cape Town, South Africa*

Zubeida Salaam-Dreyer holds a BSc(Hons) and an MSc from Stellenbosch University. She began full-time study towards her PhD in 2016.

Zubeida Salaam-Dreyer's thesis reports on the emergence and evolution of rifampicin mono-resistant tuberculosis (RMR-TB) in Khayelitsha, Cape Town. Whole genome sequencing of TB isolates from patients suggests that RMR-TB emerges via a different evolutionary mechanism and is less transmissible in the community compared to multi-drug resistant tuberculosis (MDR-TB). She also describes a positive association between RMR-TB and HIV positivity, suggesting that HIV infection is contributing to the emergence of rifampicin resistance in these patients. She further identifies that RMR-TB is often associated with low-level rifampicin resistance, suggesting that a different treatment approach could be effective for these patients.

Her research shows that whole genome sequencing of TB strains isolated from patients has utility for understanding tuberculosis transmission and could be used in combination with routine diagnostic testing for individualised patient treatment regimens, in order to accurately diagnose drug-resistant TB in the future.

*Supervisor:* A/Professor H Cox (Pathology)  
*Co-supervisor:* Professor R Warren (Stellenbosch University, Molecular Biology and Human Genetics)

Salie, Faatiema

Thesis Title: *Analysis of orthopaedic device development in South Africa: mapping the landscape and understanding the drivers of knowledge development and knowledge diffusion through networks*

Faatiema Salie holds a BSc(Eng) in Mechanical Engineering and an MSc(Med) in Biomedical Engineering from UCT. She gained experience in the development and implementation of administrative and environmental measures for infection prevention and control while employed at the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research.

Faatiema Salie's thesis examines orthopaedic medical device development in South Africa within a technological innovation system (TIS) framework. The thesis argues that the functions "knowledge development" and "knowledge diffusion through networks" of the orthopaedic devices TIS are influenced by contextual factors. Knowledge creators were identified and their relationships were examined using social network analysis and case studies. A keyword network analysis revealed research focus areas in the TIS and related the actors based on their cognitive distance, highlighting unrealised collaboration potential in the network. The institutions that impact on the TIS were reviewed. Sectoral context, for example the underappreciated role of healthcare actors, and political factors, in the form of government innovation policy and initiatives, were found to play a role in the knowledge dynamics of the

TIS, while geographical context played a lesser role. The findings may inform policy and organisational strategies for orthopaedic device innovation.

*Supervisor:* Professor T. Douglas (Biomedical Engineering)  
*Co-supervisor:* Dr K de Jager (Biomedical Engineering)

Schutz, Charlotte

*Thesis Title: Diagnosis, treatment and determinants of mortality in patients hospitalized with HIV-associated tuberculosis*

Charlotte Schutz graduated with an MBChB in 2000 and worked in public sector health facilities until 2009 before transitioning to clinical research. She holds an MPH from UCT.

Charlotte Schutz's thesis investigates contributors to mortality in patients hospitalized with a new diagnosis of HIV-associated tuberculosis. She described high mortality despite appropriate treatment and characterised the clinical, microbiologic and immunologic contributors to mortality. Factors found to be associated with mortality were having clinical features compatible with sepsis syndrome, having rifampicin resistance and having a higher number of positive markers of tuberculosis dissemination (the spread of tuberculosis through the bloodstream to multiple organs). She reported an innate immune signature in the blood which was associated with mortality and with more disseminated tuberculosis. She measured antituberculosis drug concentrations in a sub-group of patients and reported suboptimal exposure to rifampicin and isoniazid, both key drugs in first line antituberculosis treatment. These findings have been used to design a clinical trial to evaluate novel treatment strategies in hospitalised patients with HIV-associated tuberculosis with the aim of improving survival.

*Supervisor:* Professor G Meintjes (Medicine)

*Co-supervisors:* Professor RJ Wilkinson (Medicine); Dr M Shey (Medicine)

Schwabe, Karen

*Thesis Title: Medical complications during a community-based mass participation endurance running event – an investigation of the epidemiology and risk factors associated with medical complications, with recommendations for risk mitigation*

Karen Schwabe holds an MBChB degree from Stellenbosch University and a MPhil (Sport and Exercise Medicine) from UCT. While completing her PhD, she worked as a sports physician for a number of provincial and national teams, including the South African Olympic team and the Springbok 7's.

Karen Schwabe's thesis focuses on the incidence and risk factors of medical complications in community-based mass participation endurance running events. The aim is to reduce the risk of sudden cardiac arrest, sudden death, serious/life-threatening medical complications and general medical encounters. The studies were conducted over a period of 5 years on participants of the Two Oceans Marathon races. She first identified which medical complications are common, and then identified potential independent risk factors associated with the development of these medical complications. The final component of this work was to develop a novel pre-race medical screening, risk stratification and educational intervention tool to reduce the risk of medical complications in distance running and other endurance events. On completion of her research work, this tool was applied successfully and is now implemented by a number of endurance events.

*Supervisor:* Emeritus Professor Martin Schwellnus (Exercise Science and Sports Medicine)

*Co-supervisors:* Professor Wayne Derman (Institute of Sport and Exercise Medicine, Stellenbosch University); Professor Andrew Bosch (Exercise Science and Sports Medicine)

Scibiorek, Martyna Anna

*Thesis Title: Investigating role of IL-4 receptor alpha (IL-4Ra) in murine models of atopic dermatitis*

Martyna Anna Scibiorek completed her Bachelor of Applied Sciences in field of Life Sciences at Hogeschool van Arnhem en Nijmegen, she then completed an Sc in field of Immunology and Infectious diseases at Erasmus University, Rotterdam, the Netherlands. She then continued her education towards her PhD in 2017.

Martyna Anna Scibiorek's thesis investigates the role of interleukin receptor alpha in adaptive immunity in atopic dermatitis in murine models. During her research she optimised acute atopic dermatitis murine model using skin irritant as well as chronic allergic murine model of atopic dermatitis. The disease has been investigated in-depth in several mouse strains providing better understanding of mechanisms of various immune cells interactions as well as their influence on the disease markers. She further expanded her work to verify the effect of the cutaneous sensitisation on allergic asthma in those models. Overall the research provides better understanding of disease development and progression as well as mechanisms of action of the current treatment regime. With her research it will be possible to provide more targeted therapies of atopic dermatitis and possibly alleviate the side effects related to current treatment.

*Supervisor:* Professor Frank Brombacher (Immunology)  
*Co-supervisor:* Dr Sabelo Hadebe (Immunology)

Sipuka, Olwethu

*Thesis Title: Exploring a framework for decolonised, disability inclusive Student Walk support practices in Open and Distance Learning Institutions*

Olwethu Sipuka completed his Masters in Disability Studies in 2011 at UCT and began his PhD in 2016. He has served in the Office of Student Affairs and as the head of the Advocacy and Resource Centre for Students with Disabilities at the University of South Africa.



Olwethu Sipuka's thesis explores the fundamental dimensions and aspects of a decolonised support systems in an Open and Distance Learning environment for students with disabilities. The study notes that decolonisation is not well understood by either staff or students. The thesis also points out key facets of the decolonised Student Walk as being globally relevant, as well as students playing a crucial role as stakeholders. They need to influence higher education systems globally on inequality, curricula change and power plays, and a consistent strategy as a main aspect of the process. The major implications of the thesis advocate for inclusive initiatives that are linked to institutional level strategic support, staff training on disability awareness, disability inclusive policy reflection to ensure an inclusive implementation strategy. Specifically, the support of inclusive practices by understanding inhibitors to their adaptability to the student population within a learning environment. A decolonised, inclusive Student Walk framework is proposed.

*Supervisor:* Professor Theresa Lorenzo  
*Co-Supervisors:* Associate Professor Sindile Ngubane-Mokiwa and Associate Professor Kasturi Behari-Leak

Spracklen, Timothy Francis  
Thesis Title: *Whole-exome sequencing of cases with familial cardiomyopathy*

Timothy Spracklen completed his BSc and MSc(Med) at UCT, and began full-time study towards his PhD shortly thereafter.

Timothy Spracklen's thesis reports on the use of high throughput exome sequencing in five South African families with inherited heart muscle disease (cardiomyopathy). Using this technique, new gene-disease relationships are described in four of the families, demonstrating a genetic diversity of cardiomyopathy that has not been reported in South Africa to date. He also employs genome editing techniques to model the roles of some of these genes in heart development and function, and uses these methods to illustrate that the gene POLG may contribute to cardiomyopathy and arrhythmia phenotypes in human

patients. These results suggest that similar high throughput genetic testing of African cardiomyopathy patients may be warranted, especially when familial disease is observed, as this genetic information can have profound implications on treatment, prognosis, and family management.

*Supervisor:* Professor NAB Ntusi (Medicine)  
*Co-supervisor:* Associate Professor G Shaboodien (Medicine)

Stemela-Zali, Unati  
Thesis title: *Career construction and support of D/deaf high school learners in the Eastern Cape Province*

Unati Stemela-Zali holds degrees in Audiology, a Postgraduate Diploma in Occupational Health and an MPH. She has worked both in public and private sectors as an Audiologist, an Assistant Director in Rehabilitation Services and is currently the Head Of Department at the University of Fort Hare in the Eastern Cape.

Unati Stemela-Zali's thesis was inspired by her work experience. Drawing from foundations and experience in Audiology, community engagement with rehabilitative services management, interactions with occupational environments, her study explains how D/deaf learners in the Eastern Cape construct their future careers and the supports available to them to do this. The study builds a tripod relationship between the fields of disabilities, education of the D/deaf learners and career development. Her findings show that there was limited support and opportunities for D/deaf learners given several factors contributing to difficulties with learning Sign Language, negotiating the curriculum, struggles with policy implementation and opportunities for career development. The findings also show that D/deaf learners have aspirations for their futures careers despite contextual and systemic challenges. It is hoped that the study will result in building a better life for the communities of D/deaf people and persons with disability at large.

*Supervisor:* Professor Harsha Kathard (Health and Rehabilitation Sciences)  
*Co-supervisor:* A/Professor Maximus Sefotho (University of Johannesburg)

Thami, Prisca Kerapetse  
Thesis title: *Genetic diversity and population structure within Botswana: association with HIV-1 infection*

Prisca Thami holds a BSc degree in Biological Sciences from the University of Botswana, Botswana and a MSc degree in Bioinformatics with Molecular Biology from the University of Mauritius, Mauritius. She joined UCT as an International Research Affiliate in 2018, then began full-time study towards her PhD in 2019.

Prisca Thami's thesis reports the genetic architecture of the population of Botswana through computational analysis of human whole genome sequences. The thesis proposes the genetic relationships among the people of Botswana, and compared to other global ethnicities. She further assesses the role of human genomic variations on susceptibility to HIV-1 infection and progression to disease. Using a statistical method of cumulative effects of rare variants, she identifies three novel genes (Ankyrin Repeat Domain 39, RNA gene LOC105378523 and General Transcription Factor IIIC Subunit 3) that potentially influence HIV-1 progression. These findings are first steps towards understanding the role of low-frequency variants on HIV-1 outcome and will be useful in future interventions against HIV-1 in an African setting.

*Supervisor:* Associate Professor Emile R. Chimusa (Human Genetics - Bioinformatics)  
*Co-supervisors:* Dr Simani Gaseitsiwe (Virology, Research Laboratory, Botswana Harvard AIDS Institute Partnership); Dr Vlad Novitsky (Virology, Department of Immunology and Infectious Diseases, Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health); Dr Melvin Leteane (Virology, Department of Biological Sciences, University of Botswana)

van Hoving, Daniel Jacobus  
Thesis Title: *An evidence-based algorithm for the rapid diagnosis of tuberculosis in HIV-positive patients presenting to emergency centres*

Daniël van Hoving holds a MBChB qualification from the University of the Free State and a MMed(Em Med) and MScMedSci(Clin Epi) from Stellenbosch University. He works as a specialist emergency physician at Khayelitsha Hospital and Tygerberg Hospital and began part-time study towards his PhD in 2016.

Daniël van Hoving's thesis examines novel strategies for diagnosing HIV-associated tuberculosis in emergency centres. He evaluated the accuracy of the urine lateral flow lipoarabinomannan assay performed under real world circumstances. He determined ultrasound features predictive of microbiologically confirmed tuberculosis. Both the urine test and the ultrasound were done at the patient's bedside, providing evidence of their utility as true point-of-care tests. Based on these findings, he derived a multi-parameter clinical decision tree that included clinical information, individual point-of-care ultrasound features, chest x-ray and urine lateral flow lipoarabinomannan results. His findings can be utilised to rapidly diagnose tuberculosis in HIV-positive patients presenting to the emergency centre in settings where clinical expertise, laboratory tests and infrastructure are limited.

*Supervisor:* Professor GA Meintjes (Medicine)  
*Co-supervisors:* Professor G Maartens (Medicine); Professor AP Kengne (Medicine)

van Nunen, Lara Jane  
Thesis Title: *Executive function and contingency management for methamphetamine use disorder in South African: a comparison pre- and post-treatment*

Lara van Nunen holds a BSc and BSc (Hons) degree (both first class passes) from the University of Cape

Town. She started her MSc in 2016 and upgraded to a PhD in 2018. She is a recipient of the Oppenheimer Memorial Trust Scholarship and the Ernst and Ethel Erikson Scholarship.

Lara van Nunen's thesis focuses on neuropsychological tasks to determine differences in executive function in patients with methamphetamine use disorder. She compared patients who responded to an 8-week contingency management trial (N = 16) versus those who did not (N = 11). In addition, she investigated differences between the groups with respect to underlying functional connectivity of brain regions at rest and brain surface average and cortical thickness. She showed significant differences between responders and non-responders to treatment at baseline in executive function, and functional brain connectivity and brain anatomy. There were also a few notable group differences post intervention. The results imply that contingency management may be an effective treatment for methamphetamine use disorder, particularly for those with robust pre-existing executive control.

*Supervisor:* Dr JC Ipser (Psychiatry and Mental Health)  
*Co-supervisor:* Professor DJ Stein (Psychiatry and Mental Health)

Williams, Monray Edward  
Thesis Title: *An investigation of a neuro-inflammatory profile of HIV-associated neurocognitive disorders*

Monray Williams holds a BSc, BSc (Hons) and MSc Biotechnology degree from the University of the Western Cape. He joined the Department of Psychiatry and Mental Health at UCT in 2016 for his PhD studies.

Monray Williams' thesis investigates the association of blood immune markers with brain integrity and neurocognitive impairment in treatment-naïve South African HIV-positive participants. His thesis supports the premise that inflammation is a major contributor to the development of HIV-associated neurocognitive impairment. From a panel of markers, he identified two peripheral immune markers, thymidine phosphorylase and neutrophil gelatinase-

associated lipocalin that were associated with cognitive impairment. Neutrophil gelatinase-associated lipocalin was associated with reduced brain cortical thickness, and this marker mediated the relationship between cortical thickness and cognitive impairment. The work in this thesis further indicate that immune marker levels may be influenced by sequence variance of the HIV viral Tat protein. These findings further contribute to our understanding of the relationship between inflammation and HIV-associated neurocognitive disorders.

*Supervisor:* Professor JA Joska (Psychiatry and Mental Health)  
*Co-supervisors:* Professor DJ Stein (Psychiatry and Mental Health); Dr PJW Naude' (Psychiatry and Mental Health)

Yirdaw, Biksegn Asrat  
Thesis title: *Depression and HIV/AIDS: adapting and piloting group interpersonal therapy for treatment of depressive symptoms for people living with HIV/AIDS in Northwest Ethiopia*

Biksegn Asrat Yirdaw completed his BSc qualification at the University of Gondar and MSc at Jimma University in Ethiopia, and began full-time study towards his PhD in 2018.

Biksegn Asrat Yirdaw's thesis reports on effective psychological treatments for depressive symptoms for people living with HIV/AIDS (PLWHA) in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs) including in Ethiopia. He investigated areas to be focused on in an intervention for PLWHA and identified a potentially effective intervention – group interpersonal therapy (IPT) for treatment of depression for PLWHA in Northwest Ethiopia. He completed an adaptation of group IPT using established frameworks in a stepwise approach and piloted this adaptation among 31 randomly selected PLWHA with depression assigned into four IPT groups. The findings from the pilot study show that this peer-administered group IPT intervention showed some success in reducing depressive symptoms and was found to be acceptable and feasible for PLWHA in Northwest Ethiopia. These findings will be used in future studies of group IPT in

the HIV population in Ethiopia.

*Supervisor:* A/Professor Marguerite Schneider (Psychiatry and Mental Health)

*Co-supervisors:* Professor Crick Lund (Global Mental Health and Development, Kings's College London); A/Professor Fentie Ambaw (School of Public Health, Bahir Dar University)

#### MASTER OF MEDICAL SCIENCE IN GENETIC COUNSELLING

Barlow, Robyn Amy  
Francois, Sydney (with distinction)  
Vorster, Nina

#### MASTER OF MEDICINE

Abrams, Marlin Shaun  
Addae, Haleema  
Aldera, Alessandro Pietro (with distinction in the dissertation)  
Allie, Nazneen  
Amer, Akrem Omar  
Asukile, Melody Tunsibilege (with distinction in the dissertation)  
Burger, Adrian  
Chang, Hung-Jou  
Chundu, Mwanja  
Crous, Ilse  
Day, Cascia (with distinction in the dissertation)  
Elmusbahi, Mohamed Ali M  
Gina, Nontokozo Bongekile  
Goolab, Deepika  
Govender, Ramona  
Grobler, Kathryn Anne  
Groenewald, Michael Burger (with distinction in the dissertation)  
Ismail, Mugammad Taib  
Kempe, Laura Jessica  
Lukhna, Kishal  
Mashanda-Tafaune, Blessing  
Mgidlana, Msimelelo  
Moabelo, Macheune Agnes  
Moonda, Zaheer  
Moore, Allison Louise (with distinction in the dissertation)  
Mpisane, Fefekazi Jennette (with distinction in the dissertation)  
Mtshana, Ziningi Charity  
Muller, Seth Joshua  
Naidu, Kaveshin  
Nkabane, Avela Ntombenkosi  
Noconjo, Lubabalo  
Richards-Edwards, William Heath

Rusch, Jody Alan (with distinction in the dissertation)

Samuel, John Philip (with distinction in the dissertation)  
Schoeman, David Hermanus  
Schutte, Marcelle  
Sulaiman-Baradien, Rizqa  
Vahed, Anisa  
van den Worm, Lerinza (with distinction in the dissertation)  
van Zyl, Carike  
Washaya, Norbertta Nzwisisayi (with distinction in the dissertation)

#### MASTER OF NURSING IN CHILD NURSING

Amos, Andrea Samantha (with distinction)  
Crous, Eljeshca Carene (with distinction)  
Harris, Nadia Katijah (with distinction)  
Jama, Busisiwe  
Mwale, Adess

#### MASTER OF PHILOSOPHY

Abdalla, Mohamed Abdalla Mansour  
Abdelfadiel, Omer Alawad Homaida  
Booth, Elizabeth Cecile  
Hitewa, Alina Ndahafa  
Kahl, Gisela (with distinction in the dissertation)  
Kajawo, Shepherd (with distinction in the dissertation)  
Martin, Donna-Lee Pamela  
Mlotho Mitole, Rachel  
Moyo, Yotam Mgonjetsi  
Mtukushe, Bulelwa  
Oosthuizen, Lizle Joann  
Perumal, Rubeshan (with distinction in the dissertation)  
Semere Gebreyesus, Manna (with distinction)  
Senaya, Charles Mawunyo  
Spies, Leana (with distinction)  
Stevenson, Alexander Graham  
Swarts, Elsonia (with distinction)  
Tererai, Agnes Chipu  
Vandayar, Yuvika

#### MASTER OF PHILOSOPHY IN EMERGENCY MEDICINE

Schwalbach Goncalves, Melisanda  
Toscano

#### MASTER OF PUBLIC HEALTH

Chepkurui, Viola (with distinction)  
Chidavaenzi, Merlary  
Chitando, Mutsawashe  
Fortuin, Suereta  
Hoosen, Nikhat  
Louw, Tatum Janine  
Mbuthini, Linda  
Mojapelo, Thato  
Obamuyide, Henry Adebayo (with distinction in the dissertation)

#### MASTER OF SCIENCE IN BIOMEDICAL ENGINEERING

Haasbroek, Pieter Daniël (with distinction in the dissertation)  
Matseke, Thabang Ofentse (with distinction)

#### MASTER OF SCIENCE IN EXERCISE AND SPORTS PHYSIOTHERAPY

Kabongo, Ken Mark

#### MASTER OF SCIENCE IN MEDICINE

Baliso, Athi (with distinction)  
Campbell, Megan Loraine (with distinction)  
Kontoghiorghe, Christina Niovi (with distinction)  
Marx, Melissa Lauren (with distinction)  
McLarty, Callum Ewart  
Saacks, Nicole Aimee (with distinction)

#### MASTER OF SCIENCE IN NURSING

Matoetoe, Themba  
van der Nest, Yolinda Louise (with distinction)

#### MASTER OF SCIENCE IN OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY

Fuller, Lauren (with distinction in the coursework component)

#### MASTER OF SCIENCE IN PHYSIOTHERAPY

Phillips, Kerry-Ann Darlene

BACHELOR OF MEDICAL SCIENCE  
HONOURS IN EXERCISE SCIENCE

Klein, Timothy Duncan (in the first class)  
Leondiris, Jordan (in the first class)  
Rosslee, Dominique Theresa (in the first class)  
van der Berg, Taron Jessica (in the first class)

BACHELOR OF MEDICAL SCIENCE  
HONOURS IN BIOKINETICS

Alexander, Firdows  
Ebing, Kelly (in the first class)  
Irons, Stephanie Robyne (in the first class)  
Keuko Njuenji, Ornella Kelly (in the first class)  
Makan, Vishaan Kamal  
Oliver, Claire Robyn  
Sanderson, Julia Claire (in the first class)  
van Blerk, Jarod Kyle  
Zungu, Nozwelo Ayandiswa

BACHELOR OF MEDICAL  
SCIENCE HONOURS

Amel, Atoosa (in the first class)  
Anderton, Meg Thandi (in the first class)  
Benard, Francis Gwetsani  
Booth, Tyler Jessica (in the first class)  
Burmeister, Carly Ann (in the first class)  
Chambers, Jessica Rose (in the first class)  
Chan, Joanna Joy (in the first class)  
Cheddie, Dylan (in the first class)  
Chicken, Anika (in the first class)  
Chineka, Anesuishe Nicole (in the first class)  
Cullinan, Joshua Peter (in the first class)  
de Klerk, Arne (in the first class)  
Dean, Leanne Joy (in the first class)  
Dharmalingam, Sivanesan Navukarasan  
Dlamini, Sithandiwe Zamaswazi (in the first class)  
Fisher, Abduraghmaan (in the first class)  
Gild, Samuel Michael (in the first class)  
Gultig, Kayleigh Danielle (in the first class)  
Hattingh, Roxanne Megan (in the first class)  
Holtes, Lara Kathryn (in the first class)  
Humby, Kate Elizabeth (in the first class)

Hurree, Jennah Nivashni (in the first class)  
Ilorah, Okechukwu Miles (in the first class)  
Jacobs, Jodie Lee  
Jeena, Hardik Shailendra  
Jones, Katelyn Nicola (in the first class)  
Khotseng, Mmitsane Predencia  
Kim, Inae (in the first class)  
Kordom, Kelly  
Laban, Festus  
Lourens, Rentia Francis (in the first class)  
Loyson, Josh Callym (in the first class)  
Machekano, Rosah  
Madlala, Mbalentle Thembeka Nobuhle (in the first class)  
Magubane, Noluthando Andiswa Thabile  
Manzoni, Datin (in the first class)  
Meek, Sasha Louise (in the first class)  
Modise, Jastina Tsholofelo  
Mudau, Nzumbululo Precious  
Mullins, Michelle Odette (in the first class)  
Naick, Rishern (in the first class)  
Nam, Yuseung  
Ntuli, Sandile Ntando (in the first class)  
Payne, Tamzyn (in the first class)  
Rahman, Shabita (in the first class)  
Rajah, Megan Rian (in the first class)  
Rampya, Mosibudi  
Razak, Yasin  
Rodrigues, Tristan (in the first class)  
Samie, Nabeelah (in the first class)  
Samodien, Kauthar  
Setlogelo, Kutlwisiso Clarice Mmagoronyane  
Shirindza, Vuthlarhi (in the first class)  
Simango, Zanele Melissa  
Smith, Keiran Michael (in the first class)  
Steyn, Christina Cecelia (in the first class)  
Steyn, Teresa Julieta (in the first class)  
Swanepoel, Phillip Ivan (in the first class)  
Tarwa, Tapiwa Tavarwisa (in the first class)  
Tonelli, Andrea (in the first class)  
Tsetetsi, Masechaba Sebatso  
van der Meulen, Emma (in the first class)  
Wagner, Jason Sean (in the first class)  
Whittaker, Amy-Leigh (in the first class)  
Williams, Simone Rose (in the first class)  
Wiswedel, Rani Claudia (in the first class)

Zondo, Mpumelelo Mamonoshi Bizo (in the first class)

POSTGRADUATE DIPLOMA IN  
HEALTHCARE TECHNOLOGY  
MANAGEMENT

Kuhlase, Siphesihle Siph  
Magadze, Vincent  
Mhlope, Sipepiso Evans (with distinction)  
Molaudzi, Musiwa Christopher  
Munsaka, Effraim Frackson (with distinction)

POSTGRADUATE DIPLOMA IN  
INTERDISCIPLINARY PAIN  
MANAGEMENT

Chetty, Shannen Letayah  
Degraft-Johnson, Papa Kobina Gyakye (with distinction)  
de Jonge, Louise  
Gerber, Michaela  
Jacobson, Judine (with distinction)  
Kolobe, Litaba Efraim  
Noach, Kelli (with distinction)  
Nyarko, Eugenia Ofosuhemaa  
Nzenze, Ncumisa  
Sauls, Daniela (with distinction)  
Saunders, Stacy Estelle  
Schmidt, Dirk Ernest  
Simpson, Gary Christopher (with distinction)  
Smit, Joseph (with distinction)  
Spavins, Megan Heather (with distinction)  
Thomas, Leona Pamela

POSTGRADUATE DIPLOMA  
IN COMMUNITY AND  
GENERAL PAEDIATRICS

Elile, Chinenyenwa Ebelechukwu Jennifer  
Hendricks, Malukah (with distinction)  
Kerbelker, Tamara Charmian  
Westwood, Jessica Mary (with distinction)

POSTGRADUATE DIPLOMA IN  
HEALTH PROFESSIONAL  
EDUCATION

Camroodien-Surve, Fatemah



Cotton, Sarah May  
du Toit, Elizabeth Jane (with distinction)  
Groenewald, Michelle Teresa (with distinction)  
Hannington, Michelle Lynne (with distinction)  
Motshweneng, Oupa Steven (with distinction)  
Musarurwa, Hannibal Tafadzwa  
Nwosu, Chukwubuike Emmanuel (with distinction)  
Omoruyi, Sylvester Ifeanyi  
Opuwari, Chinyerum Sylvia

POSTGRADUATE DIPLOMA IN  
ADDICTIONS CARE

Charles, Felicia (with distinction)  
Marco, Marina Marlene  
Mbhojana, Neziswa  
Niemann, Pieter Jacobus  
Scholtz, Yumnah (with distinction)  
Todd, Jessica Sarah Jeanne

POSTGRADUATE DIPLOMA IN  
CHILD NURSING

Huluhulu, Thozama  
Zuba, Nolumanyano Dolly

POSTGRADUATE DIPLOMA IN  
COMMUNITY EYE HEALTH

Magwati, Virginia  
Mall, Zahraa (with distinction)

POSTGRADUATE DIPLOMA IN  
DISABILITY STUDIES

Dampies, Carmenita  
Madlongwana, Bulelwa  
Malope, Bongwiwe Pretty  
Nomnganga, Tabisa Portia  
Schaerer, Sharize (with distinction)  
Thulo, Siphamandla  
Verhoef, Suna Margaretha (with distinction)  
Zondani, Luvuyo Geddes

POSTGRADUATE DIPLOMA IN  
FAMILY MEDICINE

Eckardt-Vorsatz, Deirdre Martine  
Moosa, Shehnaz

Qangule, Nandipha Lumka  
van der Merwe, Shani (with distinction)

POSTGRADUATE DIPLOMA IN  
HEALTH ECONOMICS

Bhungane, Thandeka  
Karume, Mushagalusa (with distinction)  
Kayongo, Milly (with distinction)  
Macholi, Bongeka  
Mading-Ongadile, Dianah Baleseng  
Mahagane, Knowledge Sandile  
Makhene, Mmamotsa Reabetswe  
Mantanga, Nontutuzelo Ntuthu  
Mavuso, Sibusiso Edward  
Mbuli, Sanelisiwe Ayanda  
Mhembere, Tsungai Patience (with distinction)  
Mhlongo, Melissa Mandisa Nokuthokoza  
Mngoma, Piet Steven  
Moodliar, Sarvashni  
Motshwane, Judith Ntsiki  
Muchena, Gladwin  
Rankgoane-Pono, Goabaone  
Rintsana, Lukhanyo  
Sibande, Funeka  
Solomons, Chadli Garth (with distinction)  
Vushoma, Eubert Rufurunesu (with distinction)

POSTGRADUATE DIPLOMA IN  
OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH

Harris, Conan (with distinction)  
Head, Brandon Wayne (with distinction)  
Kunyuza, Sithandiwe  
Mabe, Duduetsang Florence  
Maboso, Botembetume (with distinction)  
Makanza, Tasisius Nathan (with distinction)  
Marais, Noël Eugene (with distinction)  
Mashele, Gabaza Euphenia (with distinction)  
Mashele, Nkosinathi Nzula (with distinction)  
Mokwena, Thabo Kushatha (with distinction)  
Moolla, Zuraida (with distinction)  
Murray, Andrew Ean Pieter  
Mwitta, Subira Joseph (with distinction)  
Mzondo, Nokwanda  
Nhau, Catherine Kuziwa  
Nhubunga, Musa Godfrey

Nodali, Funeka Linah  
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As of January 2015, the levels of individual donors' giving circles have changed as follows:

- Chancellor's circle: formerly R250 000+, now R500 000+;
- Vice-Chancellor's Circle: formerly R100 000 – R250 000, now R250 000 – R500 000;
- Dean's circle: formerly R60 000 – R100 000, now R100 000 – R250 000;
- Friends of UCT: formerly <R60,000, now <R100,000.

Please note that these changes only affect donations received after 1 January 2015. All donors who were members of particular circles prior to January 2015, will continue to be recognised in their original circles, until the rolling five-year giving period has elapsed.

*We apologize for any omissions or errors. If you would like to query your donations totals, circle membership, or any other matter related to your gifts to UCT, please email [giving@uct.ac.za](mailto:giving@uct.ac.za).*

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