



## Message from Head of Department .....



**Prof Shirley-Anne Boschmans**

The first day of Spring has come and gone and so has the third term of the academic year. The Pharmacy Department staff and students have once again been active in many spheres. We invite you to page (or should that be 'click' as this is an electronic newsletter!) through this edition of the Pharmacy Department Newsletter to catch-up with the happenings in the Department.

The Department has been disseminating 'Pharmacy @ NMMU' since the beginning of 2013 and there have been six editions thus far. Although various staff members and students have contributed to the articles in 'Pharmacy @ NMMU' it is time for us to acknowledge the magnificent contribution of the editor/designer of the newsletter. *Arista van Jaarsveld*, Pharmaceutical Chemistry Technician in the Pharmacy Department, has single handedly been responsible for the design, compilation and publication of every edition of 'Pharmacy @ NMMU' since its inception. Arista everyone in the Department salutes you for your contribution. Thank you . . .

## Pharmacy Department awarded tender for NHI Project



Data collectors with the tablet devices donated by the American International Health Alliance. From L to R: Nekamva Tom, Babalo Gibeni, Phatela Ntsala, Prof Shirley-Anne Boschmans, Crystal Scholtz, Corlia Swart, Jethro Nkomo and Irmila Jansen Van Vuuren

The Pharmacy Department, led by Prof Shirley-Anne Boschmans, is developing a model for the up-skilling of post basic pharmacist's assistants to pharmacy technician while remaining in the workplace. The Eden District of the Western Cape Department of Health received NHI funding for the project.

The perceptions of and attitudes toward the up-skilling to pharmacy technician amongst pharmacists and pharmacist's assistants are being interrogated as part of the project. A group of Pharmacy Students attended a training workshop and then visited hospitals and clinics in the Eden District (from Riversdale to Plettenberg Bay) during the September vacation period interviewing the pharmacists and pharmacist's assistants. Data was collected

using tablet devices which were donated to the Pharmacy Department by the American International Health Alliance. The donation was made possible through funding from the U.S. President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), South Africa and was facilitated by the AIHA's HIV/AIDS Twinning Centre.

Students enjoyed participating in the research project and especially in interacting with the pharmacy staff in the hospitals and clinics. A student comment: "I was nervous before I started as I had never been in a clinic dispensary before but now I want to work there when I graduate" encapsulates the experience for the students.

## NMMU Distinguished Teacher Award



**Prof Ilse Truter**

This award is the most prestigious of all the NMMU teaching and learning excellence awards made to academics at NMMU, Prof Ilse Truter from the Department of Pharmacy was one of the recipients. The award aims to institutionally recognize and honour academics who have :

- Demonstrated excellence in teaching and learning and have been regarded as being an outstanding teacher over a sustained period of time.
- Made outstanding contributions to advancing NMMU's teaching and learning goals, strategic priorities and educational purpose with a view to enhancing student success and the student learning experience.
- Provided outstanding leadership in teaching practice and teaching innovation in their discipline and in the institution.

*"My message to all academics is to let the passion for teaching/academia burn in you. People will see it, and they will draw closer to see what is happening. Too many people just exist, and too few people live with a purpose and a passion. As academics, we have the opportunity to leave footprints behind that will change lives."* - Ilse Truter

## First Pharmacy Technician Students Experience Workplace Training



**Zanele Halimana, Lisa Giltrow (pharmacist) and Shanté Gerber**

The Pharmacy Technician students started the 2<sup>nd</sup> semester with workplace based experiential training. Students were placed in Community Pharmacies and in Primary health Care Clinics. They were required to complete 56 work hours in each of the two settings. The technician students returned to campus on the 25<sup>th</sup> August with many happy, funny and not so happy stories to tell. The feedback from the pharmacists at the practice sites was very positive.

Comments from Medirite's Lisa Giltrow : *"I would like to take this opportunity to compliment you on your students. The past 4 weeks have been an awesome experience and I have taken much pleasure in being involved in the development of such fine young ladies and gents who will do our profession proud once they are qualified. Each student has their own unique qualities which stood out during their time here. Some were a little reserved and shy at the beginning but settled into the daily operations of the pharmacy happily and by the end of their journey they were totally at home and very sad to be leaving. They were all very eager and ready to please and I could not give them enough work to do, they were always asking for more work."*

*All of the students took part in all of the activities in a general working day. I am quite sure that they will all come back fully equipped for retail pharmacy. And if they don't understand stock control after their 7 days here, they never will!*

*They are a lovely bunch of young adults and they have a bright future ahead of them. Congratulations on a super job NMMU Pharmacy Department- you have truly once again produced young, knowledgeable, passionate professionals with high work ethics."*

Well done to our Pharmacy technician students who were fantastic ambassadors for NMMU and the Pharmacy Department.

**Teri-Lynne Fogarty, Lecturer**



### St Thomas High visits the Pharmacy Department



Kirsty Kriek (left) and Janet Barry (right) with the  
Grade 12 pupils from St Thomas High School

Teri-Lynne Fogarty then told the group more about the programmes offered in Pharmacy and after this the pupils were taken on a tour of the Pharmacy Department which they really enjoyed. It was a wonderful opportunity to speak to the pupils and encourage them to make the right choice when choosing a course of study, as this is a major contributing factor to making a success of their lives.



Grade 12 pupils from St Thomas High School visited the Pharmacy Department on the 31<sup>st</sup> July. Our Faculty Marketing Representative, Kirsty Kriek, introduced the pupils to the various Health Sciences courses offered at NMMU.

### Clinical Skills Programme for Hospital Pharmacists

In June 2014, nineteen pharmacists from Life Healthcare completed Module 4 of the year-long Short Learning Programme (SLP) "Clinical Skills for Hospital Pharmacists".

This programme was specifically developed by NMMU for Life Healthcare and presented by four of the Pharmacy Department's staff members:- Mrs Jane McCartney, Prof Shirley-Anne Boschmans, Dr Sue Burton and Miss Lia Kritiotis.

A week later, Life Healthcare sent a delegation of 15 pharmacists to the 4th Annual Conference of the South African Society of Clinical Pharmacists (SASOCP) at Lagoon Beach Hotel, Cape Town from 19 - 22 June 2014. This was the largest delegation sent by Life Healthcare since the inception of SASOCP, and 11 of these pharmacists had just completed the NMMU Short Learning Programme. Four of the presentations were based on work submitted as assignments during the SLP, namely i) Nikita Reddy presented a survey evaluating nurses' perception towards the role of the pharmacist providing clinical services in a private hospital setting; ii) Eunice Duvenhage's poster on "A self-claimed allergy to

enoxaparin – lessons learnt"; iii) Corlia Bergh's presentation on "The Candida at Flora" and iv) Debbie Cruickshank presented on medication errors identified in the ICU and strategies developed to reduce these errors.



The delegation from Life Healthcare in Cape Town for the conference of the South African Society of Clinical Pharmacists (SASOCP). Eleven of these pharmacists recently completed the NMMU Short Learning Programme

## Meet New Pharmacy Staff



**Candice Clark** — I have been appointed in the Pharmacy Department from July 2014, lecturing pharmaceutical chemistry. I have been lecturing chemistry since 2007 in the extended programmes. I also did some contract work in the Pharmacy Department in 2013. I have felt really welcome in the Pharmacy Department and I hope I can make a meaningful contribution to the students I encounter. I graduated with my Masters degree in chemistry in April this year, and my research was focused on coordination compound formed between the lanthanide metals and various sugar molecules, with a view to looking at new biomedical applications of these compounds. The title of my dissertation was: Polynuclear biomolecular-supported rare earth coordination compounds: Towards a new generation of lanthanide-based drugs. I am currently registered for my PhD in chemistry and I am conducting similar research as my Masters, but looking at copper and a different set of sugar ligands.



**Yakub Kadernani** is a former student of the NMMU Pharmacy Department, where he graduated with a BPharm Degree in 2010. In January 2011, he enrolled for a Master's degree (MSc in Pharmaceutical Sciences) at the University of the Western Cape which he completed in December 2013 and graduated in March 2014. His study focused on the synthesis of novel adamantane derivatives as multifunctional neuroprotective agents. Yakub also performed an internship (Jan 2013 to June 2013) at Merck KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany where he was assigned to Research Pharmaceuticals and Early Development. He completed his internship by delivering a podium presentation, as well as submission of a bound write-up detailing his findings.

From December 2013 to August 2014, he was employed on a contract basis to develop and teach the new second year Chemistry module (ZTM201) to Pharmacy students, as well as lecture Pharmaceutical Chemistry (ZCH401) to fourth year Pharmacy students. From 1 September 2014, Yakub has been appointed on a permanent basis within the Pharmacy Department and will be working within the ZTM stream of the BPharm programme.



**Siya Skweiyal** — I completed my National Diploma in Information Technology (Technical Applications) in 2008 from the Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University. In 2010 I worked at MSC Business College as a facilitator, where I taught End-User computing. I moved on from there to be a Service Centre Coordinator at Dimension Data. I have worked at NMMU for 2 years and 3 months now, first at the South campus ICT helpdesk from 2012 to 2014, then at Missionvale Campus as the Admin support and now a permanent position at Pharmacy as the Pharmacology Technician.

WELCOME TO THESE NEW STAFF MEMBERS !!!!



### St Louis College of Pharmacy PharmD student APPE International Rotation in South Africa



For our third rotation - **Grace Benanti** (left), **Brittany Albus** and myself, **Melissa Berney** (right) - embarked on a journey to Port Elizabeth, South Africa to teach Pharmacy Technical Assistants (PTA) students at Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University. As a non-patient care elective, teaching was our main focus during the rotation; however,



we were also fortunate enough to experience several aspects of the South African health system. We visited two public hospitals, one private hospital, an independent community pharmacy, and a dispensary within a primary health care clinic. The experience we gained during this rotation was further enhanced due to our envelopment in South African culture and language, including Afrikaans, Zulu, and Xhosa.



The first two weeks of our trip we lectured the first year PTA students. We taught the students sinusitis, rhinitis, pharyngitis, ophthalmic, and otic conditions. The students were very receptive to our lectures. We added activities during the lectures to keep the students attention. Students had to match terms to definitions as went through them during lecture or fill in blanks on their slides of the



key points. Overall, we appreciated the lack of laptops during class as students were unable to get distracted by social media. The students may not have known it, but they were the first students we had ever lectured, we were grateful that they made it so easy for us!



We visited Dora Nginza Hospital, a public hospital - a hospital for patients who do not have medical insurance or cannot afford to go to a private hospital. It was thrilling to learn more drug names and abbreviations that we are unfamiliar with in the United States. We also had our first experiences with tuberculosis and HIV (+) patients. Although the pharmacy students in South Africa are very familiar with these disease states, we have much less contact with them. We were able to

visit Livingstone Hospital, another public hospital. We were impressed to see that all of the government hospitals have the same system for patient charting and records. One of the biggest challenges in the United States is when you switch from hospital to hospital, your records change and one have to learn a whole new system! During our final week in South Africa, we each spent time at St. George's private hospital, Rink Street independent community pharmacy, and Korsten primary healthcare clinic (PHC). St. George's had beautiful up-to-date facilities that were on par with American hospitals. Rink Street was very similar to independent pharmacies here, but it was quite a challenge for us to dispense drugs with completely different trade names than we were used to! The Korsten PHC was extremely fast-paced, as hundreds of patients arrived each day to visit the doctor and pick up their prescriptions. While we regret having to leave so soon (just when we're getting a hold on a few Afrikaans words!), we want to thank everyone we have met for their kindness and generosity. - **Melissa Berney, Grace Benanti, Brittany Albus**

### The International Society for Pharmacoeconomics and Outcomes Research South Africa (ISPOR SA) Health Technology Assessment (HTA) Conference



Dr George Dranitsaris

The International Society for Pharmacoeconomics and Outcomes Research South Africa (ISPOR SA) Health Technology Assessment (HTA) Conference was held on 8 and 9 September 2014 at the St Georges Hotel in Pretoria. The conference was attended by approximately 80 people from industry, academia and the government. Prof Ilse Truter, who is a Board member of ISPOR (SA), presented two posters at the conference and chaired a session, whilst Dr George Dranitsaris from Ontario, Canada, who completed his PhD in the Department of Pharmacy at NMMU under the supervision of Prof Truter and Prof Martie Lubbe from North-West University, was one of the keynote speakers at the conference. His presentation was on value based pricing.

### South African Society of Basic and Clinical Pharmacology (SASBCP) Servier Basic Pharmacology Award



**Miss Mone Mouton**, 4th from the left, a NMMU BPharm graduate (2012) was awarded first prize in the Basic Pharmacology competition at the 17th World Congress of Basic and Clinical Pharmacology held in Cape Town in July 2014. Miss Mouton is currently registered for an MSC (Pharmacology) degree at the North West University. Mone's presentation, which won the award, was based on research undertaken for her master's degree and was entitled "The long lasting effects of early life administration of methamphetamine on depressive like behaviour in stresssensitive rats".



Highlighting the need to upgrade the knowledge and skills of the current mid-level workers in pharmacy, **Prof Shirley-Anne Boschmans, Head of the Pharmacy Department at Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University (NMMU)**, described the development of the new pharmacy technician training program offered at NMMU. The presentation was part of an American International Health Alliance workshop entitled "The Impact of Mid-Level Workers on South Africa's Health System" at the 10th Public Health Association of South Africa (PHASA) Conference in Polokwane on 3 September 2014. Over 30 conference attendees representing government, academia, the NGO community and other stakeholders participated in the workshop focusing on three mid-level worker cadres which have been supported by AIHA: clinical associates, pharmacy technicians and paramedics.



## Student activities ....

### PHELOPHEPA 2014



Nikita Kuhn and Kailyn Davies in Upington with the Phelophepa train

NMMU Department of Pharmacy students will work for 13 weeks this year on the Phelophepa Health Care Train. There are two Phelophepa trains since last year, but this is the first year that both trains are fully operational. Our students worked on Phelophepa I this year, which travelled inter alia through the Eastern Cape, Northern Cape and Western Cape. Phelophepa was stationed at Swartkops at the beginning of the year for two weeks. Some of our students therefore had the privilege to work on Phelophepa very close to home. From July to September 2014 our students had to travel long distances - some of the stations visited include Upington, Prieska, Douglas, De Aar, and more recently Mossel Bay, Ashton and Saldanha. Pharmacy students work in pairs (groups of two) for a period of one week on Phelophepa under the supervision of a registered pharmacist. The Pharmacy Department will place 27 BPharm 4th year students and two postgraduate students this year on Phelophepa. Apart from dispensing medicines, they learn how to counsel patients by making use of the services of a translator, they learn how to use pictograms and also work as part of the health care team.

### Student life is all about balance ....

One thing that students always hear is "life is about balance", one might say the same thing about dancing.

On the 9th of August, four NMMU Pharmacy Students took part in the 2014 Interschool Student Nationals for Ballroom and Latin American Dancing. What was particularly great was that each year of students was represented. These students were: **Bradley Clemence** – 1st Year, **Alexander West** – 2nd Year, **Chris-Marie Stroebel** – 3rd Year, and **Paché Oranje** – 4th Year.

These dancers performed incredibly well in their respective sections. In particular: Paché placed 2nd in all of the following sections: the Reverse Lead Waltz, Intermediate Ballroom, and in Intermediate Latin. Alexander placed 3rd in both the Pre-Bronze Latin and Pre-Bronze Ballroom sections. Dancing is a passion for all of these students. It gives them the much needed break from their studies, and a chance to express themselves through their dancing.



Paché and partner



Alex and partner

As members of the NMMU Ballroom and Latin Dancing Society, they are able to meet new people, develop their passion and keep the balance between work and play.



**We would like to congratulate these students on their excellent results and for being great ambassadors for the NMMU Department of Pharmacy! Keep on dancing!**

# Student activities ....

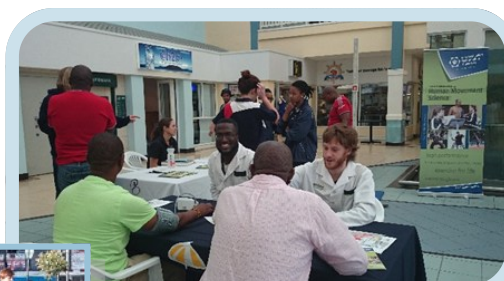
## News from PEPSA .....

Pharmacy week : 1- 8 September

- We started Pharmacy week off with a social with the Rhodes University pharmacy students on the 30<sup>th</sup> of August. Pharmacy students from NMMU travelled to Grahamstown to partake in a Pharmacy Quiz in the morning and to play soccer, basketball and small games in the afternoon. Unfortunately Rhodes were the winners at the end of the day, despite our efforts. It was a great day and students thoroughly enjoyed the trip.
- On the 1<sup>st</sup> of September we had a lecture presentation by Cahlia Howard who is a Pharmacist at Greenacres Hospital and is actively involved in Antimicrobial Stewardship (AMS). In her presentation she describes how antibiotics work and how resistance is a worldwide problem. She also mentioned the Antimicrobial Stewardship (AMS); how it works and ways in which we can get involved.
- Together with the Human Movement Science department, PEPSA organised a Health Awareness day at Summerstrand village where customers were able to get basic screening done; such as BMI, blood pressure, core strength and grip strength tests



morning



On the



5th of

September, PEPSA went and donated the collected non-perishable goods to the Sinethemba Childrens' home in Korsten.



We spent the afternoon playing with the children



## Pharmacy Staff and Charity ....

- Slipper Day - 1 August 2014, Though it was a cold and wet day we still had a couple of our staff members — Mrs Sue Burton, Mrs Jayne Rishworth, Mrs Ross Sugden, Mrs Jacqui Taylor and Ms Charne Reed — that step out in their slippers to celebrate Reach For A Dream Slipper day and help make dreams come true for children having been diagnosed with a life threatening illness
- Casual Day - 5 September 2014, Some of the Pharmacy staff dress up in their "Bling" to support Casual day !

Siya Skweyiya, Jayne Rishworth, Celeste Naude, Candice Clark, Charne Reed, Teri-Lynne Fogarty, Janet Barry, Jacqui Taylor and Ross Sugden