



First Graduating Class for Higher Certificate in Pharmacy Support



The graduating class along with the Pharmacy staff who supported and lectured them in 2013

This year the Pharmacy Department celebrated the first ever graduation of Pharmacy Technical Assistants in South Africa. A graduation dinner and award ceremony was held for the graduating class on the 16th April 2014 at the North Campus conference centre. The evening was made possible through funding from the US President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) and CDC/South Africa, managed by the American International Health Alliance's HIV/AIDS Twinning Center. (See more photos on page 7)

Message from Head of Department



We invite you to join the Pharmacy Department in reflecting on the first semester of 2014 by reading our Newsletter. Flipping through the Newsletter brought the realisation that this is indeed a busy department with many varied activities happening in addition to the day to day business of presenting lectures and practicals and all the associated tasks.

The first semester is always a time to reflect on achievements with graduation and award ceremonies. Congratulations to all our graduates we wish you all success in your careers that lie ahead of you. We share these moments with you on pages 4 to 7. Life does indeed have its cycles and at the same time that we celebrate success we also note with sadness the sudden passing of one of our BPharm4 students, Kim Rumney. Her fellow students pay tribute to her on pg 3.

July has arrived with its usual dose of cold weather—possibly to alert us to the fact that the year is rapidly passing! The Department looks forward to all the events of the second semester and wishes you all well until the next time we meet in this Newsletter!

Shirley-Anne Boschmans

Another VC Scholar in Pharmacy

At a glittering function, on the 12 February 2014, the fifth cohort of students celebrated being awarded the Vice-Chancellor's Scholarship for 2014. Among the top 30 recipients, selected using academic achievement as the only criteria, is another young Pharmacy student - **Ntokoza Gabriel Pakati**. He follows in the footsteps of 2013 recipients - Yasmine Khan and Nikita Naidoo.



Prof Victor Exner, Judge Pillay, Ntokoza Pakati, the Vice-Chancellor, Prof Derrick Swartz and the Chancellor, Santie Botha



I live with my parents, my three sisters, my niece and nephew. Started my schooling in 2002 at Thiyasizwe Primary school. In 2013 I matriculated at Zama High School and I obtained seven distinctions in the following subjects, IsiZulu HL, English FAL, Life Orientation, Mathematics, Physical Sciences, Life Sciences and Business Studies.

Ntokoza Pakati

I am currently studying Pharmacy at the Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University, because I love working with people and helping them. I also love medicine, so through Pharmacy I can use my love for medicine and help people in the process. It was my Mathematics teacher, Mr S. Nyembe, who encouraged me to apply for the VC scholarship and I am very honoured to be one of the recipients of this prestigious award.

FIRST YEAR ORIENTATION

Every year NMMU faculties welcome their new first years with a special event held the week before university starts. Each faculty hosts a welcoming ceremony where the students and their parents get to meet the lecturers and see the department where they will be spending the next few years. This event was held on Saturday 25 January, and started with a live feed from the Vice Chancellor, Prof Derrick Swartz, streamed to all faculties, welcoming the students to NMMU. This was followed by an address from our Dean of Health Sciences, Prof Vic Exner, and then Prof Boschmans and Prof Truter gave the welcomes on behalf of the Pharmacy Department, highlighting our facilities, the course and what the students might expect in the first few weeks at university.



Mrs Shereene Knipp is the organiser of the NMMU Orientation Programme and had the following words of wisdom for our new students : *"Coming to the university for the first time is an exciting, life-changing experience. However, it can also be challenging and stressful. The transition often involves major changes, like leaving friends and family for the first time, coming to grips with a new course and independent study, to new ways of doing things and to new expectations."*

The orientation programme for first-years is called How2@nmmu. We have academic, wellness, career, social, cultural and sports events planned for you, some to help you understand how you can study and learn in a university setting, and some just to have fun and meet new people. TheHow2 orientation leader (How2 buddy), a senior student doing the same course as the new first year student, will guide the 1st years through a programme of academic orientation prepared by the Student Counselling department."

Many of our current Pharmacy and Pharmacy Technician students enrolled as How 2 buddies and we would like to take this opportunity to thank them for their enthusiasm and support, making this difficult time for the 1st years much easier to handle.

How2@NMMU

New Pharmacy Staff member



Prof Gareth Kilian

Gareth Kilian completed his B.Pharm and MSc (cum laude) degrees in 1999 and 2001 respectively from the then University of Port Elizabeth and later, obtained his PhD from the Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University in 2011. After completing his community service at Butterworth Hospital in the Eastern Cape, Prof Kilian began as a lecturer in pharmaceuticals in 2003 and later was appointed head of the division of Pharmaceuticals. In October 2011, he joined the University of the Western Cape as a senior lecturer in pharmaceuticals. In January 2014, he re-joined the Department of Pharmacy at NMMU as an associate professor. Prof Kilian has also worked part-time in community and hospital pharmacy as well as pharmaceutical industry.

His current research interest is in the development of liposomes as nanoparticulate drug delivery systems using statistical experimental design. He has successfully supervised and co-supervised 17 M.Sc. students and one Ph.D. student in both medicinal chemistry and pharmaceuticals and is currently supervising 6 M.Sc. and 2 M.Sc. (Nanoscience) students at NMMU and UWC.

Prof Kilian is a registered pharmacist and member of the Pharmaceutical Society and has also served on the executive committee of the Academy of Pharmaceutical Sciences of South Africa as honorary secretary since 2009.

Pharmacy Student Passed away



It is with great sadness that the Department of Pharmacy announces the loss of a remarkable fourth-year student and friend, **Kim Rumney**. She passed away by way of a pulmonary embolism in March. The sudden loss of a young person is always tragic and shocking.

Kim set very high standards for herself and was very hard-working, honest, diligent, and committed to being the best that she could be. Students and lecturers would agree. Those whom were privileged to know Kim would also agree that she had very loving, genuine, caring, considerate, funny, kindhearted, politically incorrect, and honest ways. For her classmates, it is hard to believe that she is gone and her interesting responses in class, her jokes, and her wonderfully baked cakes are no more. School should be a time of launching and new beginnings, not death. We must all take each day as it comes and take time to enjoy life and take care of each other. Kim will be greatly missed and may her soul rest in peace.– **4th Year Class**

Pharmacy Department to host Academy Conference of Pharmaceutical Sciences

The organising committee takes pleasure in announcing the first call for papers for the 35th conference of the Academy of Pharmaceutical Sciences of South Africa. The conference will be hosted by the Department of Pharmacy, Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University in Port Elizabeth and will be held from 12 – 14 September 2014 at the Summerstrand Hotel in Port Elizabeth.

The theme, “Integrating education, research and practice” highlights the need for an integrated approach to pharmacy education, pharmaceutical research and practice in order to promote collaborative healthcare provision.

Those wishing to participate in the conference or submit abstracts for both oral and poster presentations are kindly reminded that the deadline for submission of abstracts will be 31 July 2014. Information about the conference and online registration and abstract submission can be accessed at <http://pharmacy.nmmu.ac.za/Academy-Conference-2014> . For further information regarding the conference, please feel free to contact Prof Gareth Kilian (Gareth.Kilian@nmmu.ac.za).

PHARMACIST OATH CEREMONY



The Pharmacy Department hosted the annual Pharmacist Oath Ceremony on the 13th April 2014 in the South Campus Auditorium. The Pharmacy graduates proudly pledged the Pharmacist Oath in English or isiXhosa.



Mr Rory Whittle (Alpha Pharm), congratulating the new pharmacists

The graduates also participated in a 'White Coat' Ceremony. During this ceremony the graduates are given a white pharmacist coat which they accept as a symbol of accepting the responsibilities and ethical responsibilities of the profession. Amongst the dignitaries that graced the function were Prof Nanette Smith (Director, School of Medicinal Sciences), Mr Rory Whittle (Alpha Pharm Wholesale), Mr Peter Giltrow (Chairman of Cape Midlands Branch of the PSSA), Vuyo Mququ (PPS representative) and Mr Clive Stanton (Alpha Pharm Retail Group).

Encouraging words from our speakers for our new Pharmacists :

"Each one of you has now been given a unique set of specialised skills that very few people in the general population have. How to use these skills makes the difference between being a good pharmacist...or a phenomenal pharmacist." **Mr Peter Giltrow**



"....you will be called on to balance the excellence of science with the compassion of patient care.....the responsibility moves to you to continue to build and further strengthen our profession and all that it stands for." **Mr Clive Stanton**

The function was sponsored by Alpha Pharm, PPS and the Pharmaceutical Society of South Africa.

GRADUATION



CLASS OF 2013

As part of the Annual Graduation Celebrations, the Pharmacy Department organize and host a **Graduation dinner** every year for the graduating Pharmacy class. Once again the dinner was held at Old Austria Restaurant, thank you to the owner, Peter Raymer, for the excellent service, food and entertainment that was provided. The evening was an opportunity for the new pharmacists to be able to see their classmates as well as their lecturers with whom they had spent so many hours during their time at NMMU. We were fortunate to have Dr Reddy's Laboratories sponsor the event. Tony Lloyd from Toubib Marketing joined us on behalf of Dr Reddy's.



Mr Tony Lloyd and his wife Carole



We would like to thank Tony and Dr Reddy's, for once again sponsoring this wonderful evening. We look forward to hosting many more special events like this in the future.



TOP ACADEMIC ACHIEVERS IN NOVEMBER 2013 EXAMS

At the **Annual Award Ceremony**, at which academic excellence was recognized, the top student of each year in the BPharm programme received a sponsored prize as well as an award medal and certificate from the Academy of Pharmaceutical Sciences, presented by Prof Shirley-Anne Boschmans. The top students in each year of the BPharm programme were : BPharm1 - Yasmine Khan, BPharm2 - Roxanne Gerber, BPharm3 - Mayi Nanyonga and BPharm4 - Lana Strydom



Miss Nanyonga (Top 3rd year), Prof. Boschmans, Miss Khan (Top 1st year) and Miss Strydom (Top 4th year)

Prof Shirley-Anne Boschmans also presented Certificates for Academic Achievement to the top 5 BPharm4 students of 2013 - 1st Miss L Strydom, 2nd Mr A Mutombwera, 3rd Mr M Weder, 4th Mrs L Goitseman and 5th Mrs B Gaolebe



Top BPharm graduates for 2013 : A. Mutombwera, B Gaolebe, M Weder, L Strydom, L Goitseman

ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

— Congratulations to all the students who achieved a weighted average of 75% or higher for the November 2013 examinations. This is an achievement to be proud of and the staff in the Pharmacy Department would like to recognize the hard work and dedication required or academic achievement at this level. Well done to all of you ! (See list of names on page 7)

Pharmacy Technical Assistant Award Ceremony and Graduation dinner

Mrs Teri-Lynne Fogarty (programme coordinator for Midlevel worker programmes in Pharmacy) presented certificates to the top 3 academic achieving students during the award portion of the evening : 1st place – Shante Gerber, 2nd place – Siphokazi Matika and 3rd place – Megan Felix



Mrs Fogarty with to Shante Gerber, Siphokazi Matika & Megan Felix



The Pharmacy Department thanks the following dignitaries for attending the PTA graduation.

Back : Sara Adelman (AIHA), Teri-Lynne Fogarty, Dominique (Clicks), Peter Giltrow (Medi Rite)
Front : Shirley Leadbeater (Life Healthcare), Ayanda Soka (Pharmaceutical Services ECape DOH),
Michael Gogwana (AIHA), Shirley-Anne Boschmans and Hlone Masiza (SAPC)

Newly graduated PTA's enjoying their Graduation Dinner



ACADEMIC ACHIEVERS > 75 %	
STUDENT NAME	AVERAGE
BPHARM 1	
KHAN YM MISS	94.9
TRANSELL AL MRS	89.7
HALGREEN KC MISS	87.5
FISH ML MISS	84.7
NANKUMBA AM MS	83.9
JANSEN KK MISS	83.5
HOFFMANN RM MISS	82.9
DU PREEZ SD MISS	79.7
MULLER N MISS	78.8
ERASMUS A MISS	78.3
VAN DYK IC MISS	78.3
WEST AJ MR	76.7
EKSTEEN B MRS	76.5
OELOFSEN EI MISS	75.9
POYO CPA MISS	75.6
RAMJAN Y MS	75.4
BPHARM 2	
GERBER RB MISS	88.1
VAN ROOYEN RR MR	85.6
SCHUTTE E MISS	80.7
LEE CS MISS	74.6
BPHARM 3	
NANYONGA MM MS	84.6
DAVIES KL. MISS	83.3
OLIVIER FK MR	79.8
PAHLWA TI MISS	79.6
STRYDOM J MISS	77.2
MURINDA RR MR	77.0
DEVE CR MISS	76.6
SLABBERT JE MRS	75.8
YASAMIN SHIRAZI B MS	75.5
BPHARM4	
STRYDOM L MISS	87.9
MUTOMBWERA AT MR	83.1
WEDER MS MR	78.8
GOITSEMANG L MRS	78.0
GAOLEBE BM MRS	74.8
HIGHER CERTIFICATE	
GERBER SE MISS	90.9
MATIKA S MISS	90.6
FELIX MM MISS	87.2
SIMMONS F MRS	86.0
SWANEPOEL KK MS	85.1
HENDRICKS S MS	84.7
GLASS SC MR	82.9
SMIT T MISS	82.5
DOUW NT MISS	82.2
LEVENDAL KK MISS	78.5
MOLAI M MISS	77.9
DASHA VR MISS	77.7
ABRAHAMS N MISS	77.4
NJEMLA O MISS	76.6
MIGGELS LG MISS	76.3
NXUMALO SS MR	75.5

NMMU OPEN DAY - MAY 2014



The Pharmacy Department's stand at this year's Open Day was indeed topical. What with the National Elections having been held a mere two days prior, a voting booth was not seen to be out of place. Indeed, in voting for their futures, the learners who visited the pharmacy stand stood in line to win a lovely hamper of goodies donated by Medi-Rite.

In keeping with the theme of 'seeing your future from a different angle' learners also had the opportunity of having their pictures taken; and this wasn't just any old picture, it was a visualization of the future, their future as pharmacists, pharmacy technical assistants or pharmacy technicians; in dispensing jackets!

Much interest in, not only the degree but also the higher and advanced certificate programs were shown. It is encouraging to see the number of learners interested in making pharmacy their career.

A special thanks must go out to Medirite and thanks also to Dr Sue Burton, for setting up the 'photo booth' and to Mrs Janet Barry for leading the team involved. Thank you also to all staff and students who gave of their valuable time to help 'man' the stand and make all who visited it excited about pharmacy.



We trust Pharmacy captured the imagination of all who visited our stand.

The Faculty of Health Sciences at the NMMU conducts appropriate research and disseminates the results to relevant leaders and role players in the health care sector. The **Annual Prestigious Student Research Conference** that will be held on **Friday, 26 September 2014** in the **Auditorium** at the **NMMU (Summerstrand) South Campus, Port Elizabeth**. Selected research studies conducted by postgraduate student researchers from the various departments of the Faculty will be presented in either oral and/or poster formats at this prestigious occasion. Prizes will be awarded for the most outstanding presentations.

For details regarding the conference. Contact: Ms Gail Klopper, Tel 041-5042492, email: gail.klopper@nmmu.ac.za

Practice Analysis for Pharmacy Technicians



Participants (Pharmacists and Post Basic Pharmacist Assistants) with the Practice Analysis Leaders.

As the first institution to be accredited for presentation of the Pharmacy Technical Assistant (Higher Certificate) and Pharmacy Technician (Advanced Certificate) qualifications NMMU is actively involved in ensuring that the programmes we present answer the needs of the workplace. On 31 March 2014 a practice analysis was, therefore, undertaken for the Pharmacy Technician. The practice analysis was undertaken by the Pharmacy Department at NMMU in association with the St Louis College of Pharmacy, USA.

During a practice analysis the current incumbents of the position and the supervisors in the workplace participate in a process whereby a list of tasks and responsibilities undertaken by, in this case, the Pharmacy Technician is drawn up. There are no current incumbents, as the first Pharmacy Technicians will only graduate at the end of this year, therefore, Post Basic Pharmacist's Assistants and Pharmacists were invited to participate. All sectors, namely, manufacturing, distribution and wholesale, community pharmacy (both independent and corporate), as well as private and public sector institutional/hospital pharmacy were represented. A total of 9 Post Basic Pharmacist's Assistants and 12 Pharmacists participated in the activity which was held in Pretoria at the offices of the South African Pharmacy Council. The outcome of the process is a task list for Pharmacy Technicians which will be disseminated to the profession. The Practice Analysis was made possible through funding from the US President's Emergency Plan for AIDS relief (PEPFAR) and CDC, South Africa and was facilitated by the American International Health Alliance's HIV/AIDS Twinning Centre.

Western Cape Mini Conference 1 March 2014

Teri-Lynne Fogarty was invited to present at the Western Cape Mini conference held at the Far Hills Country Hotel in George on Saturday 1st March 2014. The conference was sponsored by Adcock Ingram and was attended by Pharmacists and Pharmacist Assistants from the Western and Eastern Cape. The purpose of the presentation was to inform the delegates about the new mid-level worker programmes offered at NMMU. This was also an opportunity to network with stakeholders who will be employing the graduates in the near future and create awareness around the scope of the new Pharmacy Technicians. Teri-Lynne's participation in the conference was kindly sponsored through funding from the US President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) and CDC/South Africa. Activities such as this are carried out through a partnership between Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University and St. Louis College of Pharmacy. Managed by the American International Health Alliance's HIV/AIDS Twinning Centre, the partnership's overall goal to train pharmacy mid-level workers with enhanced skills to meet the South Africa's ever increasing need for quality healthcare services.

RESEARCH NEWS

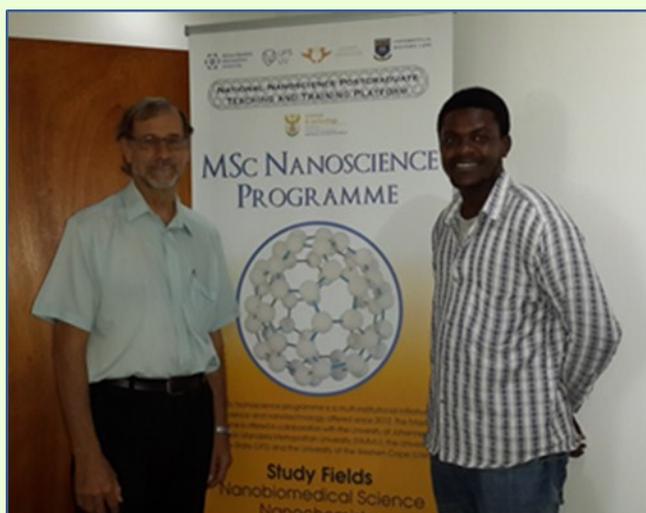
Research course for Postgraduates

The School of Management Sciences hosted a Research course. Students interested in pursuing their post graduate studies attend the course. Topics that were covered, included Quantitative and Qualitative research designs, Research Proposals, and other important aspects that students may experience along their research journey. "It is something that I would recommend to any student interested in pursuing their post graduate studies. Although it's a 5 day course, it provides a lot of information that demystifies any uncertainties that one may have about academic research." - **Nasreen Isaacs**



Right to Left: Prof Elmarie Venter, Ms Nasreen Isaacs (postgraduate student from Pharmacy Department) and Prof Miemie Struwig

Atherton busy with Nanoscience



Atherton Mutombwera with Professor Dirk Knoesen the Director of M.Sc Nanoscience program.

The M.Sc Nanoscience degree is offered only by four universities in South Africa: Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University, University of Free State, University of Johannesburg and University of Western Cape. It is a two year program comprising of three aspects: introductory courses in the wider aspects of nanoscience, courses in advanced nanoscience studies in the *respective* fields (Nanobiomedicine in my case), and a research thesis on a nano-study project. The four universities collaborate that all the course work is conducted at UWC where excellent lectures are given by local and international lecturers. The research project is done at the home university of the student. For South African students acceptance into the program comes with a scholarship that

covers the full tuition, registration, accommodation, books, laptop +3G USB modem and a monthly allowance. I fall within the Nanobiomedical Science discipline, and the other disciplines are Nanochemistry and Nanophysics. The convergent nature of nanoscience allows for interdisciplinary collaborations. But then what is nanoscience? I registered the same question when Professor Boschmans and Professor Roux introduced the program last year. It is the study of material with size ranges below 100nm (1×10^{-7} m). Although they are so small that they cannot be visualized by the normal light microscope, it's the properties that such a small size confers that make them even more interesting and of use in the medical field.

Three and half gold atoms lined side by side are a nanometer long, and within the nanometer range gold may be colored ruby-red and may melt at 477°C yet it normally melt at 1064 °C. The pharmaceutical applications of nanoscience are remarkable, for instance silver nanoparticles exhibit antibacterial effects. Some of the key advantages of nanoparticle drug delivery include improved bioavailability, increased residence time within the body, and targeted drug delivery.

With it being described as a disruptive technology, nanoscience carries the potential to revolutionize many sectors, including health care. What I find most exciting about the course up to now is its convergent nature. My interactions with the different disciplines have exposed me to multiple ways of thinking, practices and knowledge. - **Atherton Mutombwera**

Congratulations to the following staff members

- **Dr Mbali Keele** obtained her D Phil. Her research topic was “Development of a *Bulbine frutescens* and *Carpobrotus edulis* cream in collaboration with African traditional healers of the Nelson Mandela Metropole”. This study made important and substantial contributions to the limited data available on two of the most frequently used medicinal plants in South Africa. Since it is well known that these plants are used by African traditional healers, the optimised formulation will be made available to healers in the Nelson Mandela Bay area.
- **Mr Yakub Kadernani** obtained his Master Degree at UWC - Novel adamantine derivatives as multifunctional neuroprotective agents. I synthesised a series of amantadine-derived compounds that act at multiple target sites in the neurodegenerative pathway. By conjugating benzyl and phenylethyl moieties with different functional groups to the amantadine structure, These compounds displayed calcium channel and NMDA receptor channel inhibition and were tested for calcium influx through voltage-gated calcium channels and NMDAR inhibition using synaptoneurosomes isolated from rat brain homogenate against the reference compounds MK-801, NGP1-01, amantadine, memantine and nimodipine. They also displayed inhibitory activity towards VGCC and the NMDA receptor in the micromolar range. These novel compounds may be better therapeutic options than amantadine and memantine as they inhibit both NMDAR- and VGCC-mediated calcium influx, whereas amantadine and memantine only inhibit NMDA-mediated calcium influx and may possibly serve as potential therapeutic agents for the treatment of neurodegenerative disorders.
- **Prof Shirley-Anne Boschmans** has been elected to serve a second term on the South African Pharmacy Council. Councilors are elected by their peers and serve a five year term. Prof Boschmans will be a SAPC councilor from 2014 to 2019.



2nd -year Pharmacy students with their lecturer, Mrs J. McCartney



A Pharmacology practical with a difference !

Second year BPharm pharmacology students experienced a learning exercise that focused on visual learning and communication during their pharmacodynamics practicals this semester

Pharmacodynamics and specifically the different receptor super families and signaling pathways are complex issues to understand. The new BPharm curriculum includes a semester course on Pharmacodynamics. Thus, to incorporate different learning styles and allow the second year BPharm students an opportunity to visualize and better understand the receptors and signaling pathways a practical with a difference was devised! Students, working in groups, were allocated a specific receptor and were then required to produce a 3D-model of the receptor and associated signaling pathway as well as a 10 minute power point presentation detailing the receptor anatomy, activation and signaling pathway. On the day of the presentations an impressive array of 3D-models was on display. The subsequent presentations were impressive in the detail of the content and the in-depth understanding of these complex issues displayed by the students. The pharmacology staff and visiting academics from the States were impressed by the students' understanding of the concepts as well as by the standard of the 3D-models. Well done ZCP201 students!!

Meet our Postgraduate Students

The Pharmacy Department has 21 postgraduate students - in the next few issues they will introduce themselves ...

Lana Strydom - I started my M.Sc in Pharmaceutics in conjunction with Aspen this year, and my topic is the statistical optimization of a Terbinafine-containing topical cream. I'm also assisting the Pharmacology department by lecturing the 2nd year Pharmacology teach-out class this year and helping with the 4th year hospital programme.



Frank Ababio - I am a M.Sc. student working under the Departments of Pharmacy and Biochemistry. My research interest lies in the field of biochemical pharmacology. Currently for my M.Sc. research, I am looking forward to establishing a link between the components of the endocannabinoid system in patients with inflammatory bowel disease. In order to keep up with pharmacy practice, I work on a part-time basis at Netcare Greenacres Hospital Pharmacy in Port Elizabeth.



Brent Knoesen - I am currently in the final year of my PhD entitled, *Exploring the communication skills of community pharmacists in the Nelson Mandela Metropole*. This thesis focuses on the core communication skills needed for effective communication between pharmacist and client as well as determining the problems that frequently hamper this communication process. Special interest is taken in the two sectors of community pharmacy, namely independent community pharmacy and corporate community pharmacy.



Greg Purcell - I am a Pharmacology Masters student, in my second year of Masters/Academic Internship. My degree is entirely research based and is focused around the antipsychotic drugs, their adverse drug reactions and how those adverse drug reactions are documented. It essentially combines pharmacology with pharmacovigilance. Aside from work on my dissertation I also do work for the university as an academic intern. This includes lecturing, running practicals and assessment of assignments.



Dr Diane Oelofse - My research has its origin in my day job as a Haemato-Pathologist and a long-term interest and involvement in developing a local registry for Haemato-Lymphoid Malignancies. The incidence of Haemato-Lymphoid malignancies in the Eastern Cape is not known. Further encouragement for the project came from the NMMU based LISIN group (Leukaemia Incidence Study Igazi & NMMU). My project aims to investigate the incidence and the characteristics of Haemato-Lymphoid Malignancies in the Eastern Cape.



Bernadette Louwrens - The topic for my masters is the study of the relationship between migraine aura, triggers and treatment according to migraineurs. Migraine imposes significant burden on patients, their families, health care systems and the economy. In the Global Burden of Disease Survey 2010, migraine was ranked as the third most prevalent disorder and the seventh highest specific cause of disability worldwide. Through this study I hope to increase the public awareness and the availability of information on migraine as little research is done on migraine in South Africa.



Shabeerah Ramkhalawon - I am currently in the final year of my Masters. The topic of my research is the role of the pharmacist in antibiotic stewardship. The study investigates the role that a pharmacist, especially a clinical pharmacist can play in the management of antibiotics in a hospital setting. I am currently busy with the data collection phase of my research study and aim to finish at the end of the year, for graduation in April 2015.

Postgrad. vs Two Oceans

I recently took part in my first, Old Mutual Two oceans Ultra Marathon. This being my first Two oceans Marathon I had no previous experience in running this race, but was made well aware by previous runners of the gruelling hills which await runners on the second half of the route. Armed with enthusiasm, I managed to complete the 56 km race in a time of 6h:43min. I gained a wealth of experience and will definitely be competing in 2015 ! - **Keith Daniell**



Student activities

News from PEPSA

- **New committee for PEPSA** - Amber Cheng – Chairman, Thabang Mofokeng – Vice Chairman, Alysha Transell – Secretary, Lyle Vito – Treasurer, Alice van der Walt – Social Officer, Alexander West- Academics, Susanne Otto – Editor, Ruchenda Hoffmann – Media and Communications Officer, Clarice Geduld - Charity Officer, Sonia Rurangwa Gajur - the Local Student Exchange and SAPSF Liason Officer
- **Pancake sales** - On Tuesday the March 18th PEPSA held a pancake sale in order to raise funds for the society. For some, it was the first time they had ever made pancakes, but through trial and error PEPSA managed to make good profit and served a delectable treat. More pancake sales will be held for all who missed out and for those who are craving hot pancakes again.



- **Dora Nginza** - On Friday, April 25th PEPSA visited Dora Nginza's paediatric unit to hand out soft toys collected earlier in the week. Many smiles and teddy bears later, PEPSA ensured that every child had an amazing day and a new plaything to look forward to.

- **International Student** - PEPSA hosted an exchange student, Annika Weigel from the University of Wurzburg in Germany. She spent three weeks observing and working in the different sectors of pharmacy. She worked in retail at Aloe pharmacy, hospital in St. Georges and Provincial Hospital and spent some time in the NMMU Pharmacy department. In her free time she visited the Lion Park and sand-boarded at the beach.



- **Open day** - 9th-10th of May, PEPSA advised young school-leavers about Pharmacy as a career. PEPSA won the prize for the best stand at last year's open day at NMMU.
- **Academic evening** - Monday, May 12th covered interesting topics.
- **Autopsy viewing** - Wednesday, May 14th an exciting day for those not faint-hearted and loving anatomy.
- **Movie night** - Thursday, May 15th on a big screen in order to unwind before exams start.