



Message from Head of Department



The year certainly seems to be flying past—three-quarters of the academic year have been completed. As you can see from this newsletter the Pharmacy Department at NMMU have been rather busy with many activities. No wonder time seems to pass so quickly!

Aside from the exciting activities you can read about in the next few pages the academic staff have been busy preparing and presenting lectures and practicals (and maintaining their research activities) and the support staff have been kept busy preparing for and assisting in the running of the practicals. Of course the students are also very involved in their academic studies and have a very full programme. It is therefore pleasing to see the energy of both the staff and students for all the additional activities we seem to fit into an academic term.

This term we have been supported in our various activities by some of our stakeholders—thank you for your continued support

Enjoy reading the newsletter ...
Shirley-Anne Boschmans

New Short Learning Programme : “Clinical Skills for Hospital Pharmacists”



NMMU's short learning programme “Clinical Skills for Hospital Pharmacists” – The course presenters Jane McCartney, Dr Shirley-Anne Boschmans, Dr Sue Burton from NMMU and participants from Life Healthcare, in Johannesburg.

Wednesday 26th June 2013 saw the launch of NMMU's newly developed Short Learning Programme “Clinical Skills for Hospital Pharmacists”, at Life Healthcare's Head Office in Johannesburg. The SLP has been developed by Pharmacy staff members, Mrs Jane McCartney, Dr Shirley-Anne Boschmans, Dr Sue Burton and Miss Lia Kritiotis in response to a request from Life Healthcare's management. The SLP consists of four modules which will be presented over a year, with the aim of equipping Life Healthcare hospital pharmacists with the necessary clinical skills to introduce clinical pharmacy services in this private hospital group. Life Healthcare have selected and registered 22 pharmacists, representing Life Healthcare hospitals around South Africa and Botswana.

Module One was presented over 3 days in June 2013 and focused on Medicine Management. The participants will now start to introduce pharmacist-led medication reviews in selected wards.

The SLP was officially launched at a dinner function in Johannesburg on Thursday 27th of June, at which Mr Michael Flemming (CEO, Life Healthcare), stressed the importance of the pharmacists in ensuring quality of patient care through their role in managing medicine-related issues in the hospital setting, not only in the dispensary but also in the clinical environment.

Module Two will be presented in October 2013 by Jane McCartney, Dr Sue Burton and Lia Kritiotis.

Welcome to Dr Lynsey Knoetzen



As part of the understanding which exists between the American International Health Alliance (AIHA) and Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University (NMMU), Dr Lynsey Knoetzen has been appointed as lecturer in the Pharmacy Department. This appointment has been made possible through AIHA's mentorship program, where various professionals in their capacity as mentors with the organisation, are placed at institutions showing need for their skills.

Dr Knoetzen holds both a BPharm degree, which she obtained at the University of Port Elizabeth (now NMMU), as well as an MBChB, obtained at the University of the Witwatersrand.

Her appointment is of such a nature that she is involved in both the BPharm Clinical Program, and the new Pharmacy Technical Assistant (PTA) and Pharmacy Technician (PT) programs. She is responsible for module development with regard to the module on Practical Pharmacology, which she currently lectures, for the PTA students; but is also assisting with the BPharm final year hospital program.

NMMU's Pharmacy Department hosts the inaugural meeting of the Eastern Cape branch of SASoCP



The Eastern Cape branch of the South African Society of Clinical Pharmacy (SASoCP) was recently launched at an evening function, sponsored by Aspen Pharmacare and held at the Presidential Suite at St George's Park. The National Chairperson, Prof Andries Gous was the invited guest speaker at the launch, at which the Eastern Cape branch committee was officially voted in. Mrs Leanne Stone was announced as the Eastern Cape branch chairperson, with Miss Cahlia Howard as the vice-chairperson and Mrs Lindsay Dillon as the branch secretary.

The inaugural meeting of the new branch was hosted the next day, Saturday 17th August, by NMMU's Department of Pharmacy. The meeting, in the form of a workshop on "Antimicrobial Stewardship", was well attended by close to 40 pharmacists and pharmacy students. During the tea and lunch breaks, delegates were able to visit the informative exhibition stands from three pharmaceutical companies, Pfizer, Aspen Pharmacare and MSD.

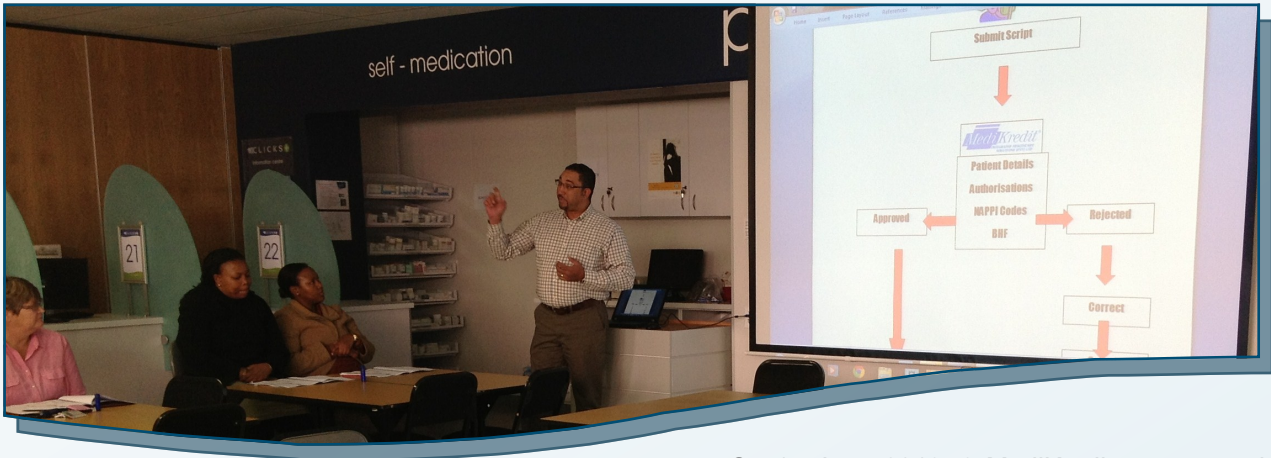
Clinical pharmacy is a specialised area of pharmacy involved with the rational and appropriate use of medicines and pharmaceutical care, in the interest of the patient and the community. The need for specialisation in the pharmacy profession is being driven by the statutory body, the South African Pharmacy Council (SAPC), who announced their intent to open a register of specialities for pharmacists. The scope of practice of the specialist clinical pharmacist has now been published, and interest amongst pharmacists is growing rapidly.

Congratulations to

- Shirley-Anne: *Ad personum* promotion to associate professor. Congratulations Prof Boschmans !
- Dr Susan Burton: Faculty of Health Sciences award for Teacher of the Year. Well done Sue.
- Lana Strydom, Ryno van Rooyen and Yasmine Khan on maintaining an excellent weighted average for the June examinations and fulfilling the requirements thus far this year for continuation of the VC Scholarship for their undergraduate studies. The staff of the Pharmacy Department are proud of your achievements.



MediKredit - “train the trainer”



On 14 June 2013, 3 MediKredit representatives, namely Wayne, Trevor du Plessis and Dina-Mare came to Port Elizabeth to present a “train the trainer” workshop for the NMMU Department of Pharmacy staff. The objective of the workshop was to introduce the staff to the history of MediKredit, and to familiarise the NMMU staff with the claiming process using MediKredit technology. MediKredit with the endorsement of Profmed have enabled the staff and students at NMMU to do live, on-line claiming using the Profmed Medical Aid rules. A database of “dummy” patients has been loaded onto the MediKredit system allowing immediate claiming with real-time responses. This will allow students to interpret rejection codes and problem solve possible solutions in a safe environment giving them more confidence when in the workplace. We are very grateful to MediKredit for donating their time and effort to NMMU.

NMMU Pharmacy Department first Career Fair

The Pharmacy Department hosted an open day on the 2nd August 2013. The NMMU pharmacy staff and stakeholders from different pharmacy sectors were invited to introduce the students to the various career options available in the profession of Pharmacy. The Career Fair was held in the South Campus Auditorium and on the day, the auditorium was a picture of professionalism and excellence. The stakeholders presented employment opportunities for pharmacists within their companies and invited applications for employment to our current final year students.



Presentations were made by the Mopani Pharmacy chain from Mpumalanga, Discovery Health, Dischem, Medi-rite, Aspen Pharmacare, the Independent Community Pharmacy Association, PPS and the South African Pharmacy Council. In addition Dischem, PPS and Medi-rite manned stalls in the foyer where students could interact with the companies. A presentation on postgraduate studies and the attractions of academia as a career was made by Prof Ilse Truter. This was followed by a presentation by Keith Daniell a postgraduate student in the Pharmacy Department. Keith recently spent six months in Sweden at the Karolinska Institute. Keith entertained the students with stories about his stay in Sweden while also making them aware of the wonderful opportunities available to postgraduate students.

The Career Fair, as can be seen by the photograph, was attended by all BPharm students from 1st year to 4th year as well as by the PTA students. This provided the various speakers with a packed auditorium.

The Pharmacy Department intends to repeat the Careers Fair next year, 2014, and would love to see even more stakeholders using the opportunity to make the students aware of the various avenues.



Sports Injuries Workshop



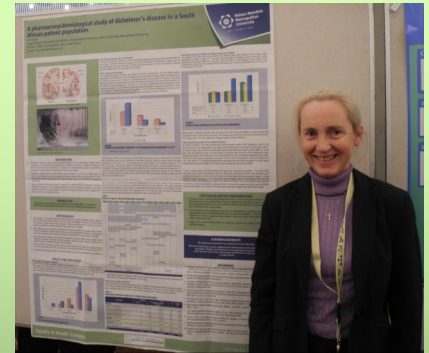
This workshop has been a highlight with the third year students since 2000 when Sophie Chandler first presented her workshop to 32 students. This year the class of 86 students were once again privileged to benefit from such an experienced physio-therapist. Sophie runs her own practice and she is involved with the EP Warriors Cricket side and with various other sporting disciplines in Port Elizabeth.

A big thank you to Sophie (Sophie Chandler & Associates) for presenting this workshop and to Tania

Aucamp from Levtrade International (Pty) Ltd for the generous strapping sponsorship. What a wonderful fun filled and successful learning opportunity for all who attended.



Research News



Prof. Ilse Truter from the Drug Utilization Research Unit of the Department of Pharmacy at NMMU attended the European Congress of Epidemiology in Aarhus, Denmark from 11 to 14 August 2013. The congress was attended by approximately 700 people. She presented an oral paper on the Transnet-Phelophepa Health Care Train as a source of primary health care data in rural South Africa, as well as a poster on the treatment of Alzheimer's disease.

Pharmacy Staff present at International Education Symposium

In July this year, three of our staff members – Shirley-Anne Boschmans, Teri-Lynne Fogarty and Sue Burton attended the 7th Monash Pharmacy Education Symposium in Prato, Italy. The symposium is hosted biannually by the Faculty of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences of Monash University, at the University's Centre in Prato. The Centre is an eighteenth century mansion in the heart of Tuscany and certainly made for a wonderful symposium venue. The theme of this year's symposium was "Teaching for Learning" and there was an excellent programme of international speakers, who were engaging, challenging and inspirational. At the Symposium Teri-Lynne presented a poster entitled: "An improved pharmacy midlevel qualification in South Africa: possibility of co-teaching pharmacists and pharmacy technicians", which was related to her work on the Higher Certificate in Pharmacy support programme.

Shirley-Anne and Sue both presented work arising from their doctoral studies. Shirley-Anne's poster was entitled: "Mother tongue or English language skills as predictors of pharmacy student achievement in a pharmacology module."

Sue's oral presentation: "Pharmacy educators: fire-lighters, pastors, mirrors or chefs?" was awarded the prize for the best podium presentation.



Sue Burton, Shirley-Anne Boschmans and Teri-Lynne Fogarty attended the 7th Monash Pharmacy Education Symposium in Prato, Italy hosted by Monash University



NMMU Information Evenings

Grey and Pearson High Schools



NMMU Pharmacy Department have been busy marketing Pharmacy as a career. Lia Kritiotis and Janet Barry attended NMMU career evenings held at Grey and Pearson High Schools. The aim of these events were to provide grade 11 & 12 pupils and their parents with as much information as possible about studying at NMMU. Each faculty got allocated a classroom where parents and pupils could come and talk to the various lecturers representing the courses offered at NMMU. Janet and Lia spoke to many pupils about the various aspects related to the study of the Pharmacy Degree as well as the Mid-level worker programme offered at NMMU. Prof Vic Exner, the Dean of Health Sciences at NMMU, also attended the Pearson event and gave scholars and their parents a good idea of the current and future position of the Health Sciences Faculty at NMMU. The evenings were well attended and were a great success.



Feedback from Grey High School "Thank-you so much for all your efforts last night, and for putting together a wonderful evening for our boys and their parents. Please convey our thanks to all of the NMMU staff who were in attendance – we really appreciate their time and expertise, and there is no doubt that all of the boys and parents benefitted enormously from the evening. We have received very positive feedback this morning from parents, and it is clear that the NMMU flag was flying last night."

Feedback from Pearson High School grade 11 learners "Thanks for a very informative evening - it definitely highlighted the many career opportunities in Pharmacy, we as learners had not been aware of and it provided us with vital information to make NMMU our university of choice for further studies."

Pharmacy Student crowned Miss NMMU

Congratulations to the third year Pharmacy student, Ms Paché Orangi on winning the title of Miss NMMU.

The Student Representative Council along with the Events Committee of 2013 have once again outdone themselves this year as they hosted a very glamorous Mr and Miss NMMU that left the crowd buzzing. This year's theme "Vogue Etiquette" created an atmosphere of sophistication, style and elegance. For the first time this year, SRC have incorporated the work of NMMU designer students into the show, giving them an opportunity to display their work. Support towards the CANSA Association was shown by dedicating one of the fashion scenes toward this worthy cause, titled "The Pink Scene." This event would not have been possible without the generous contributions from the major sponsors; Vodacom, SABS and Coca-Cola.

Comments from Paché : From my personal experience during this journey, I have come to realise that a pageants like Mr and Miss NMMU is no longer based around the concept of outer appearance. It involves having the ability to be a true ambassador to this world renowned institution. Being crowned Miss NMMU this year is a huge honour and I am truly humbled and blessed by this wonderful opportunity. I am looking forward to the journey ahead, which I believe will require hard work and dedication. During my reign; among many of my other duties; I am hoping to become involved in campaigns and community-work based on "health care". This will give me a great opportunity to share my acquired knowledge and implement the skills that I have learnt so far during the B Pharm course.



Paché with one of the toddlers from the Simethemba Children Home which Pharmacy students visited to deliver donations collected by the students.

Student activities

News from PEPSA

- **60th SAPSF conference**

This year the annual SAPSF conference was held in Potchefstroom (North-West University) from the 31st June to the 5th July. The theme was *Here to Care- Patient Focus*. The conference was a great success with Fadzai Munedzimwe as Madam President and Natasha Hayes as the Conference Convenor. As usual we had the two inter varsity competitions- SAAHIP Clinical skills Competition and Life Patient Counselling. The case study for the Clinical skills Competition was an asthmatic patient on HIV medication. Due to the side effects we had to change her medication and counsel her on the right use of her new medication. Although it was close, UKZN won this year's Clinical skills Competition. For the Patient Counselling competition, a twenty-two year old student who was recently diagnosed with type 2 diabetes came into the dispensary and delegates had to counsel her on the correct use of her medication. Students were given a glucose meter and an insulin pen to counsel the patients about. This year PEPSA won due to Jaclyn van Dyk's fine counselling skills.

- **Sinethemba Children's Home visit**

On the 30th August PEPSA went to Sinethemba Children's Home to donate much needed non-perishable food, clothes and funds. We spent an afternoon playing with the children and finding out more about the Home. Sinethemba caters for children from infants till eighteen year olds; everyone has a part to fulfil. They all work together to make the place Home function as well as it does.



- **Pharmacy Week**

PEPSA hosted pharmacy week from the 16th till the 19th of September due to tests. We had a guest speaker, Nerine Reshalin from Fresenius Kabi, who spoke to us about industry specifically about the manufacturing of hormonal injectables. We also had a small, and fun, Pharmacy quiz amongst the students, which consisted of basic pharmacology and general Pharmacy related questions. The annual autopsy viewing was well attended and students got the opportunity to visually see anatomical structures of the human body. We ended the week with a social gathering for the students before the recess.