



The year 2018 started off well, with the College meeting its enrollment targets for all new and returning undergraduate students. The Academic Services unit introduced a new bar-coded Identity system that will assist with all assessments and class registers. These are currently being used by the Schools. We are proud to note the wide-spread positive external publicity received for a number of our achievements. Some of these achievements include, the launch of the Multi-Centre Lung Cancer Control programme, headed by Dr Themba Ginindza; the admission of our first hearing impaired medical student, Ms Kalindi Persadh; the first KZN trained Nuclear physicist, Dr Alphonse Msomi; our top medical student awarded an Oxford scholarship, Dr Kumeren Govender; the first Black African neurosurgeon in KZN, Dr Nomusa Shezi; the Umdlavuzi Pap Smear Drive; as well as the Professor Frank Tanser research study.

#### **LEADERSHIP**

The CHS wishes to welcome Professor Ncoza Dlova as a substantive Dean in the School of Clinical Medicine over the next two years. We have also recently appointed a number of Heads of Departments to strengthen and enhance clinical training across our teaching sites including Professor Bhugwan Singh for Surgery, Dr Siphon Mfolozi for Forensic Medicine, Dr Basil Enicker for Neurosurgery and Dr Dibuseng Ramaema for Radiology. We are in the process of finalizing appointments of further heads of Departments and this will be communicated shortly.

A number of new academic leaders were also appointed in the CHS. For the School of Clinical Medicine, they are Dr Jacqueline Van Wyk for Research. In the School of Health Sciences, they are Professor Verusia Chetty for Teaching and Learning, Professor Pragashnie Govender for Research, Dr Diane Van Staden for Optometry, Ms Zandile Peter for Speech Language Pathology, Ms Seema Panday for Audiology, Dr Saul Cobbing for Physiotherapy,

Dr Tufayl Muslim for Dentistry, Dr Manimbulu Nlotoo for Pharmaceutical Sciences, Dr Rowena Naidoo for Biokinetics, Exercise and Leisure Studies and Ms Deshnie Naidoo for Occupational Therapy. The School of Nursing and Public Health appointed Professor Mergan Naidoo for Teaching and Learning and Dr Tivani Mashamba-Thompson for Research.

#### **HUMAN CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT**

The College has grown substantially over the last year and now has a permanent staff complement of 540 and a student complement of 6546. In addition, the College boasts about 63 post-doctoral fellows, and we have the highest number of South African post-doctoral fellows in the university.

The appointment of professors (research), high impact researchers and academics is one of the strategic thrusts that the College hopes to drive in the current year to strengthen our research impact and productivity. It is envisaged that these prolific researchers can be paired with new accelerated academic development programme lecturers, in line with our transformation efforts.

We have a number of staff who received academic promotions as at the 1st January 2018 and we congratulate them on this amazing achievement. They are Dr Brenda da Gama, Dr Manimbulu Nlotoo and Dr Rowena Naidoo to senior lecturer, Professor Pragashnie Govender, Professor Mergan Naidoo, Professor Andrew Ross and Professor Shenuka Singh to Associate Professor and Professor Fatima Suleman to full Professor.

We also congratulate all of our staff who received new NRF ratings for 2018. They are Professor Verusia Chetty (Y2), Professor Beatriz Garcia de la Torre (C2), Professor Pragashnie Govender (Y2), Dr Timothy Hardcastle (C3), Professor Refiloe Masekela (C3), Dr Tivani Mashamba-Thompson (Y2), Professor Jack Moodley (C1), Professor Rajen Naidoo (C1), Professor Busi Ncama (C3), Dr Peter Owira (C3) and Dr Shenuka Singh (C3). This brings our number of rated researchers from 48 to 59.

#### **RESEARCH**

In 2017, the Research Office supported 334 students and spent over R17 million on post graduate scholarship grants. Our Research output increased significantly, with 5 of our CHS staff making it into UKZN's top 30 researcher's list. They are Professor Mahmoud Soliman (6), Professor Anil Chuturgoon (11), Professor Benn Sartorius (14), Professor Thavi Govender (15) and Professor Colleen Aldous (17).

#### **TEACHING AND LEARNING**

The Decentralised Clinical Training programme in the College has matured and added more sites and students. The project aims to produce fit for purpose graduates that can serve the country's needs in line with the National Health Insurance requirements. The majority of programmes from the School of Health Sciences successfully placed students in the

Decentralized Training programme.

For the first time in 2018, Occupational Therapy came on board.

The entire 5th year medical curriculum now takes place in Pietermaritzburg. Medical students are also placed in Lower Umfolozi Queen Nandi Hospital, Ngwelezane Hospital in Empangeni as well as a number of rural hospitals over the province for the final year rural block. New sites include Stanger, Manguzi, Gamalakhe Clinic, Umngeni Hospital and Fort Napier.

#### **COMMUNITY OUTREACH**

Our medical students, UKZN Friends of MSF, have conducted a range of Health Days in communities and included students from other disciplines including physiotherapy, dental therapy and optometry to ensure that the communities received holistic treatment and advice. Over 425 people were reached from the areas of Phoenix, Marianridge, Noordsberg, Applesbosch, Chibiri, Lamontville and Chesterville.

In partnership with Stanford University in the United States, KRISP initiated the Durban Spark Innovation breakfast meetings which are held the first Wednesday of every month. The breakfast meetings aim to ensure that Durban is in a position to seize opportunities and manage the challenges of rapid advances in technology, such as artificial intelligence, robotics and biotechnology. It brings together scientists, entrepreneurs, industry partners, government and Durban's business sector.

UKZN's Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology, the KZN Department of Health, CANSAs, and other stakeholders, have launched a province-wide campaign to raise awareness about cervical cancer and how it can be prevented through screening, titled the "Umdlavuzi Pap Smear Drive". The campaign, includes the provision of free Pap smear screenings and educates women about its prevention by encouraging regular pap smears. The campaign will culminate on the 21st April at the Inkosi Albert Luthuli Central Hospital. The medical specialists hope to attempt to set a record for the most Pap smears performed under one roof in one day.

In a first for the province, Inkosi Albert Luthuli Central Hospital and national NGO, the Smile Foundation, have joined forces to bring critical reconstructive surgery to children in need. As such, the first-ever Smile Facial Reanimation week, supported by The Victor Daitz Foundation was held from 26 February to 1 March 2018. The Department of Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery invited Dr George Psaras as the Medical Director of the Smile Foundation to share and transfer his skills to UKZN students on the surgical management of Moebius Syndrome. During the week, Dr Psaras performed the complex surgical procedure on two young patients from Gauteng and also delivered lectures on the topic.

- Professor Busisiwe Ncama