



**UNIVERSITY OF  
KWAZULU-NATAL**  
**INYUVESI  
YAKWAZULU-NATALI**

## **COLLEGE OF HEALTH SCIENCES DVC'S COMMUNIQUE**

31 January 2012

### **INTRODUCING THE NEW COLLEGE MANAGEMENT**

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Professor Rob Slotow is the Deputy Vice-Chancellor and Head of the College of Agriculture, Engineering and Science and Acting Deputy Vice-Chancellor and Head of the College of Health Sciences. Previously he occupied the position of Deputy Dean of the Faculty of Science and Agriculture. He joined UKZN 13 years ago as a lecturer in Biological Sciences, specialising in the Behavioural Ecology of animals.

Professor Slotow obtained his Bachelor of Science and Honours degrees from Rhodes University and his Master of Science in Zoology from the former University of Natal. He completed his PhD in Biology at the University of California, Santa Barbara.

An eminent and prolific researcher, Professor Slotow's work focuses on strategies for the management of ecologically and economically important large mammals such as lion, elephant and rhino as well as processes influencing biodiversity and conservation management.

Provincially he has made an invaluable contribution towards elephant management planning at the Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife reserves in northern Zululand and the Isimangaliso Wetland Park. The eThekweni Municipality has sought Professor Slotow's expertise on Environmental Management decision-making.

Professor Slotow has published 141 peer-reviewed journal articles and nine chapters in books to date. His scholarly research from 1996 to 2007 has generated research funding totalling R15,2 million for UKZN from the National Research Foundation and donors from inside and outside South Africa. He has supervised more than 43 postgraduate science students during his academic career.

## INTRODUCING THE NEW DEANS

### SCHOOL OF CLINICAL MEDICINE



Professor Hift

Professor Richard Hift qualified from the University of Cape Town with the MB ChB degree in 1981 and performed his internship at Groote Schuur Hospital.

He specialised in Internal Medicine at the University of Cape Town and Groote Schuur Hospital, becoming a Fellow of the College of Physicians of South Africa in 1987. He was awarded the Masters in Medicine degree in 1992 with a dissertation entitled Activated Charcoal in the Treatment of Porphyria, and a PhD (Medicine) degree in 2000 with a dissertation entitled Variate porphyria: molecular aspects and their clinical and biochemical consequences.

His research interests cover all aspects of porphyria, including its epidemiology, natural history, diagnosis and management of variegate porphyria as well as its the pathogenesis, molecular biology and enzymology, and iron-loading disorders in relation to hereditary haemochromatosis and porphyria cutanea tarda in non-Caucasoid populations.

He has 57 peer-reviewed publications in a variety of Biochemical, Genetics, Medicine, Hepatology and medical Education journals, including Nature Genetics, and 18 chapters in books as well as numerous publications in other media.

He established the Clinical Skills Centre at the University of Cape Town and served as its first director. His particular interest is in the early clinical training of junior clinical-year students.

He has introduced numerous innovative and progressive educational and assessment strategies at both the Universities of Cape Town and KwaZulu-Natal, and has participated frequently in national and international medical education conferences. In his current position he oversees the undergraduate education of over 600 undergraduate students per year and of 74 specialist trainees in Internal Medicine.

His current research interests are focused on the cognitive aspects of learning and assessment in the clinical disciplines, particularly on the application of transfer theory to medical education. From the operational point of view he is concerned with the

problems of students entering the clinical years from an educationally deprived background, and with the determination and provision of the resources and structures needed to support the production of medical practitioners and specialists in the numbers and with the skills required to address the health needs of sub-Saharan Africa.

He is a member of the South African Medical Association, Fellow of the College of Medicine of South Africa, Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians of London, and examiner for the College of Physicians and the College of Anaesthetists of South Africa, member of the South African Gastroenterological Society and the Hepatopancreaticobiliary Association of South Africa, past secretary of the African Association for the Study of Liver Disease (AfrASLD), past secretary of the Committee for the Review of Porphyrinogenicity of Drugs (CORP), consultant to the American Porphyria Foundation, the European Porphyria Initiative and Orphan-Europe.

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### SCHOOL OF LABORATORY MEDICINE & MEDICAL SCIENCES



Professor William Daniels

Professor William Daniels previously served as Professor and Head of School: Medical Sciences at UKZN. Prior to joining UKZN, he worked at the University of Stellenbosch as Associate Professor and Head of Discipline: Medical Physiology.

Professor Daniels has organized 11 International and National conferences and workshops. He was invited to present 11 lectures at National and International platforms. He has received more than R2.5 million research funding for the last 5 years and trained 23 Postgraduate students.

**Best publications last 3 years:**

1. Willie MU Daniels, Joachim dK Uys, Petra van Vuuren, Dan J Stein. The development of behavioral and endocrine abnormalities in rats after repeated exposure to direct and indirect stress. *Neuropsychiatric Disease and Treatment*, 2008 4(2): 451-464.

2. IS Pienaar, LA Kellaway, VA Russell, AD Smith, DJ Stein, MJ Zigmond, WMU Daniels. Maternal separation exaggerates the toxic effects of 6-hydroxydopamine in rats: Implications for neurodegenerative disorders. *Stress*, 2008, April 21:1.

3. Joachim DK Uys, Suzel M Hattingh, Dan J Stein, Willie MU Daniels. Large scale hippocampal cellular distress may explain the behavioral consequences of repetitive traumatic experiences – a proteomic approach. *Neurochem Res*, 33 (9) 1724-34, 2008.

4. Lelanie Marais, Susan J. van Rensburg, Johann M. van Zyl, Dan J. Stein, William MU Daniels. Maternal separation of rat pups increases the risk of developing depressive behavior after subsequent chronic stress by altering corticosterone and neurotrophin levels in the hippocampus. *Neurosci Res*, 61(1): 106-12, 2008.

5. Dan J. Stein, Willie MU Daniels, Jonathan Savitz, Brian H. Harvey. Brain-derived neurotrophic factor: the neurotrophin hypothesis of psychopathology. *CNS Spectrum* 2008, 13: 11 – 16.

6. Nicola Simola, William M.U. Daniels,

Timothy Schallert and Micaela Morelli. Priming of rotational behavior by a dopamine receptor agonist in hemiparkinson rats: Movement-dependent induction. *Neuroscience* 2009, 158(4): 1625-31.

7. Pienaar IS, Schallert T, Hattingh S, Daniels WM. Behavioral and quantitative mitochondrial proteome analyses of the effects of simvastatin: implications for models of neural degeneration. *J Neural Transm*. 2009 Jul;116(7):791-806.

8. Faure JJ, Hattingh SM, Stein DJ, Daniels WM. Proteomic analysis reveals differentially expressed proteins in the rat frontal cortex after methamphetamine treatment. *Metab Brain Dis*. 2009, Dec 24(4): 685-700.

9. Daniels WM, Pitout IL, Afullo TJ, Mabandla MV. The effect of electromagnetic radiation in the mobile phone range on the behaviour of the rat. *Metab Brain Dis*. 2009, Dec 24(4): 629-41.

10. Daniels WM, Fairbairn LR, van Tilburg G, McEvoy CR, Zigmond MJ, Russell VA, Stein DJ. Maternal separation alters nerve growth factor and corticosterone levels but not the DNA methylation status of the exon 1(7) glucocorticoid receptor promoter region. *Metab Brain Dis*. 2009, Dec 24(4): 615-27.

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## SCHOOL OF HEALTH SCIENCES



Professor Sabiha Essack

Professor Sabiha Essack (B. Pharm., M. Pharm., PhD), Dean of the School of Health Sciences and Professor in the School of Pharmaceutical Sciences at the University of KwaZulu-Natal was a Wellcome Trust Research Fellow who completed research towards her PhD in Pharmaceutical Microbiology at St Bartholomew's and the Royal London School of Medicine and Dentistry in the United Kingdom.

She received several prestigious scholarships and bursaries from the Wellcome Trust, Medical Research Council, National Research Foundation and the University

of Durban-Westville during the course of her Masters and PhD studies. Her research has been published in numerous journals and has been presented at many national and international conferences.

Professor Essack began her professional career with the B. Pharm degree in 1988 and practiced as a hospital pharmacist for three years within the KwaZulu-Natal Department of Health before returning to the University of Durban-Westville in 1992 to pursue the M. Pharm degree.

She is an NRF C-rated researcher and has established the Antimicrobial Resistance Research Proto-Unit in the School of Pharmaceutical Sciences and has secured several research grants for Essential National Health Research, from the World Health Organization, the Wellcome Trust, the Medical Research Council and the National Research Foundation investigating strategies for the prevention and containment of antibiotic resistance.

Professor Essack is president of the South African Chapter of the Alliance for the Prudent Use of Antibiotics (APUA), co-founder and chair of the South African Committee of Health Sciences Deans and a Ministerial appointee on the National Health Research Ethics Council 2010-12.

She serves on the Programme Accreditation Panel of the Council for Higher Education, she is a member of the National Antibiotic Surveillance Forum, the Federation of Infectious Diseases Societies of South Africa, the Islamic Medical Association and she has

served on the National Executive of the Pharmaceutical Society of South Africa. Professor Essack was appointed coordinator to the Africa Higher Education Collaborative, a 4-country Ford Foundation-funded initiative run by the Centre for the International Exchange of Scholars in the US, her leadership of which secured a £100 000 grant from the Mobilizing Regional Capacity Initiative Programme of the Association of African Universities to undertake research on "Access, Retention and Success in African Higher Education".

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## SCHOOL OF NURSING & PUBLIC HEALTH



Professor Busisiwe Ncama

Professor Busisiwe Ncama is an Associate Professor, Dean and Head of School in the School of Nursing and Public Health. Professor Busi Ncama joined the University of KwaZulu-Natal in 1996 as a tutor in the department of Nursing.

She obtained a BCur degree from Unisa in 1996, and obtained an MCur degree in 2000 from the University of Natal, in 2001 she completed a SAIM programme in Business Administration from UNISA, and

in 2005 graduated with a PHD in Health Sciences from University of KwaZulu-Natal. She is currently completing a dissertation for the Masters in Business Administration, with all course work completed.

She practised as a critical care nurse and later moved into the area of HIV and Aids. Professor Ncama served as Deputy Head of School and Postgraduate Coordinator in the School of Nursing and later an Acting Head of School of Nursing. She is also a committee member of Women in Leadership and Leverage (WILL).

She was a Y Rated (Promising Young Researcher) NRF researcher in 2008. She received a Fogarty International Postdoctoral Fellowship which was tenured at Capriva in 2005. In 2007 she received the University of KwaZulu-Natal Distinguished Teachers Award. She has been a recipient of research funds from NRF, MRC, and other funders.

She is the current Director of UKZN World Health Collaborating Centre (WHO) for Community Problem Solving in Nursing and Midwifery in Africa. She is also a member of Fundisa (Forum of University Nursing Deans in South Africa), Sigma Theta Tau International Honour Society for Nurses and UCSF International HIV/ Aids network and has collaborated with researchers from other countries in HIV and Aids research.

She has taught in other countries such as United Arab Emirates as UKZN assignments and developed HIV/ AIDS Nursing Curricula

for use in East Africa. She has successfully supervised postgraduate students, and has published and presented papers at a number of national and international conferences.

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## TEACHING & LEARNING



Professor Ntombifikile Mtshali

Professor Mtshali's professional and academic experience includes serving the Department of Health in both urban and rural hospitals, appointment as lecturer at the University of KwaZulu-Natal where she served in a number of positions at school and faculty levels before moving to the South African Nursing Council as a Senior Manager: Education and Training.

She then rejoined the University of KwaZulu-Natal.

Having specialized in Progressive Education for Health Professional Education, Professor Mtshali interests lies in innovative teaching, learning and assessment of learning strategies, curriculum development and evaluation of educational programmes.

Her research area is in socially responsive health professionals' education, with the main focus on community-based education. She is pursuing this area further to explore education for social justice.

Her other research is on student support and clinical education. Most of this work has been published in the form of journal articles and chapters in books which are used as reference material by a number of nursing and midwifery institutions locally and internationally.

Being part of the School of Nursing and Public Health where the discipline of Nursing is recognized as a World Health Organization Collaborating Center in the African Region,

Professor Mtshali has been invited to serve as a consultant in developing nursing and midwifery human resources by bodies such as World Health Organization, USAID and Commonwealth. The consultancy work has

exposed her to a number of countries such as Rwanda, Ghana, Uganda, Tanzania, Kenya, Eritrea, Mali, Seychelles, Burkina Faso, Democratic Republic of Congo (Brazzaville and Lubumbashi), Zanzibar and Zimbabwe.

Professor Mtshali was awarded a Southern Africa-FAIMER Regional Institute fellowship (SAFRI) which contributed significantly in preparing her as a leader in education and research.

She has supervised successfully a number of postgraduate students including Masters and PhD students.

### Administrator:

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## DIRECTOR COLLEGE PROFESSIONAL SERVICES



Professor Fanie Botha

Professor Stephanus Johannes Botha attained his first degree, a BSc (Microbiology and Physiology), from the Potchefstroom University for CHE in 1984. He then went on to complete an Honours Degree and Masters Degree in Microbiology. In 1995, Professor Botha completed a PhD from the University of Pretoria.

Between the years 1988-2009, Professor Botha worked at the Centre for Stomatological Research, School of Dentistry, Faculty of Health Sciences, University of Pretoria. From 2007-2009, he served as Professor and Head of the Division of Stomatological Research.

In 2009, Professor Botha joined UKZN as Deputy Dean: Postgraduate and Research at the Nelson R Mandela School of Medicine. As Deputy Dean, he was involved in

activities which included leadership, management and administration of all the postgraduate courses and matters pertaining to these courses; innovative leadership and management of research; financial administration; quality assurance of academic programmes; human resource management; marketing and promoting the interest of the Faculty as well as deputising for the Dean of the Faculty when necessary.

### RESEARCH ACTIVITIES:

• June 1984 – December 1985:

The physiology of *Sporolactobacillus* and the survival of this organism under stressed conditions.

• Evaluation and development of shelf-stable meat products.

• January 1986 – April 1987 :

The microbiology of pork – from slaughter to retail.

• The vacuum- and gas packaging of fresh pork.

• May 1987 – June 2009:

The anaerobic micro-organisms associated with orofacial infections.

• The *Lactobacillus* species of the oral cavity.

• The integration of Titanium implants with soft tissue and bone.

• Optimal biomaterial characteristics for bio-acceptability.

• The regeneration of periodontal ligament and bone.

• The mechanisms, role and interactions of periodontal pathogens in the aetiology of periodontitis and other oral

diseases.

- The role of different acid producing micro-organisms in the process of caries initiation.
- Biofilm formation on tooth surfaces
- In vitro studies on cell interaction.
- Cytotoxicity studies on various dental materials and drugs
- Prevalence and role of *Helicobacter pylori* in the oral cavity.

• July 2009 – present:

Ongoing consultation and involvement on a research project that determines the antimicrobial activity of seasponge extracts on *Mycobacterium tuberculosis*.

Anaerobiosis of *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* and drug resistance under anaerobic conditions.

Professor Botha is a member of the International Association for Dental Research, South African Society for Microbiology and the Microscopy Society of Southern Africa.

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