



UNIVERSITY OF
KWAZULU-NATAL™
INYUVESI
YAKWAZULU-NATALI

COLLEGE OF
HEALTH SCIENCES

Deputy Vice-Chancellor's Communiqué

11 DECEMBER 2019

VOLUME 1- ISSUE 3



The College of Health Sciences' drive has been to become a top ranking, people centred College underpinned by the principles of universal health coverage, social justice, impact and relevance locally whilst remaining internationally competitive.

Message of Gratitude

All of our endeavours are only possible with a very strong, dedicated team and so I am grateful to all our staff for their ongoing commitment to growing our College. Thank you for your hard work that ensured successful registration and graduation processes and for your resilience during the spate of community and student protests, the devastating floods and the scourge of Gender Based Violence and crime both in our country and at UKZN. I am especially grateful to our staff and students that have been able to catch up the academic programme despite the challenges we experienced. If we continue to work together, united in one shared vision, we will always rise triumphant.

- Professor Busisiwe Ncama



The College of Health Sciences had a successful Health Professions Council of South Africa's (HPCSA) site inspection for the postgraduate medical programmes with 30 receiving full 5 year accreditation.

Five previously de-accredited programmes were restored except Oncology in Durban due to lack of permanent HOD but restored in PMB. Three new specialist programmes were approved for 5 years.

Optometry and Dental Therapy also received full 5 year accreditation.

Teaching and Learning Successes

Research and Impact

The appointment of dedicated seven research professors/ high impact researchers has resulted in phenomenal growth in research productivity and income generation within the CHS. Between 2018 and 2019, these seven researchers brought in close to R350 million to UKZN in grants. Many of these professors have once again made it into the Top 30 researchers based on outputs at UKZN with our Dean of Health Sciences, Professor Mahmoud Soliman taking first place again this year. We plan to appoint a further 4 Research/ High Impact Professors in 2020 utilising the CHS strategic funds.

The Centre for Pharmaceutical Policy and Evidence Based Practice was declared a World Health Organization's Collaborating Centre (WHO CC), increasing the number of WHO CCs in the College to three.

RESEARCH AGENDA

In order to support our research agenda, we set aside up to R21 million for strategic projects such as scholarships for postdoctoral fellows, PhD/ Masters students' scholarships, salaries for Research professors/ high impact researchers and purchasing of research equipment.

Reaching a milestone in the list of achievements this year was the launch of a Phase Two of the Multinational Lung Cancer Control Programme and the opening of a new Cancer Research Unit in Addington hospital and the handing over of 20 new Chemotherapy Chairs. This initiative was achieved through funding of 5 million pounds from our international partners, Bristol Myers-Squibb Foundation. The principal investigator for this study is Dr Themba Ginidza.

2

R21 MILLION

0

RESEARCH

1

PROJECTS

9

HIGH IMPACT

STRIPE

The College, as a previous MEPI recipient, has been awarded a 6 month grant (01 August 2019 – 31 March 2020) from the Human Resources and Services in partnership with the University of California, San Francisco, to Strengthen Inter-Professional Education for HIV (STRIPE). This is supportive of PEPFAR's commitment to strengthening the calibre of HIV training for health professional students, with the goal of improving quality of HIV service provision delivered by graduating doctors, nurses and pharmacists. Professor Mosa Moshabela, is the principal investigator of this Level 3 grant.

FLAGSHIPS

We were also awarded two out of the three flagship seed funding for projects that were launched this year and these include the Optimal Child Growth and Development (OrCHID) project and the Afrocentric Precision Approach to Control Health Epidemics Flagship Project. These projects fall under the leadership of Pro-Vice Chancellor of Africa Health-Saving Lives, and are set to produce high quality research that have a significant social impact.

Institute for People Centered Health

One of our major research initiative is the development of a new Research Institute and we hope to consolidate all the activities mentioned above into the Research Institute. The Vice-Chancellor awarded us a R3 million grant for this initiative. Plans are underway to create an Institute for People Centered Health which will become an engine for bringing researchers together and improving grantsmanship and third stream income. The institute will house College wide projects and will be staffed by a number of principal investigators, biostatisticians, science writers and editors, finance and operations managers, data management specialists and health economists and experts in grants management. The Institute should become self-sustainable over the next three years.

Dr Veron Ramsuran and Professor Tricia Naicker were awarded the Vice Chancellor's Young Researcher Awards.

Professor Sabiha Essack hosted a successful conference attended by over 70 international delegates on Antimicrobial Stewardship. The conference was funded by the NORHED grant.

RESEARCH HUBS

To support our postgraduate students and early career academics, the CHS is midway in the process of creating Research Hubs at Medical School, Westville and Howard College to service our postgraduate students and early career academics. The Research Hub at Medical School and Westville are almost complete.

INSPIRING GREATNESS

A1 RATING FOR PROFESSOR QUARRAISHA ABDOOL-KARIM



We extend hearty congratulations to Professor Quarraisha Abdool Karim on achieving an A1 rating from the National Research Foundation (NRF) annual ratings evaluations. The National Research Foundation (NRF) has a long history, dating back to 1984, of instituting a system of evaluating and rating researchers. Annually, researchers from universities and research councils - including international researchers - apply for evaluation by the NRF. Evaluated researchers are put in categories that depict their standing within the scientific community. These ratings are difficult to attain and are thus held in high esteem.

The highest category of ratings is a Category A researcher. These researchers are researchers who are unequivocally recognised by their peers as leading international scholars in their field for the high quality and impact of their recent research outputs. Within this category there is an A1 and A2 researcher. Professor Quarraisha Abdool Karim has achieved an A1 rating this year improving from an A2 from her previous rating 5 years ago. The A1 rating is the pinnacle rating that a researcher can achieve from the National Research Foundation (NRF).

DYNAMIC WOMEN

A few women in CHS won prestigious International and National awards. Professor Verusia Chetty from the School of Health Sciences (SHS) was First runner up in the prestigious Department of Science and Technology South African Women in Sciences Awards, in the Distinguished Young Women Humanities and Social Sciences category.

Professor Ncoza Dlova won 4 awards. The AfricaBio President's Excellence award, the Chamber of Commerce 'Professional of the Year' award for her study on causes of baldness in African women, the South African Health Excellence Awards for Leadership Excellence as well as the Runner Up prize for Global Excellence- hosted by the Clinix Health Group in partnership with the South African Clinician Scientists' Society.

Also, from the SHS, is Dr Vanessa Raquel Moodley who was awarded an HPCSA Merit Award in recognition of outstanding performance of individual practitioners.

Dr Tivani Mashamba-Thompson, was a recipient of two prestigious international fellowships. The first was awarded by the Canadian government AIDS clinical trials infrastructure, Canadian HIV Trials Network (CTN) Fellowship, while the second was given by the University College London's Centre for the Advancement of Sustainable Medical Innovation (UCL-CASMI). Professor Shenuka Singh from Dentistry received the Excellence in Dental Public Health Award from the International Venus Foundation in Chennai, India.

Leadership Excellence Award

Prof Neoza Dlova



Leadership

HUMAN CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT



The 'Grow Our People' strategy has been at the core of our initiatives in 2019 with leadership development and emotional intelligence workshops held across the College amongst academic and professional services staff and in the hospitals for the Department of Health staff involved in teaching our programmes. We have also successfully negotiated to bring the HELM programme to Durban so that all our academic leaders can attend without travelling out of the province. These initiatives and many others were crucial in forging unity and building morale among our staff who were negatively impacted by "Operation Clever".

As a College, just like the rest of the university, we are concerned about Gender Based Violence (GBV), we therefore offered workshops to all staff on GBV and the Domestic Violence Act and our male staff from the School of Health Sciences created an oath for all males in the College community to pledge to prevent GBV at our flagship events.

JOINT HEALTH ESTABLISHMENT

We are also in the final stages of the Joint Health Agreement with the KZN Department of Health which will strengthen our relationship to ensure better health services to the people of KwaZulu-Natal. To this end, our Decentralised Clinical Training platform (DCTP) has grown substantially this year with new platforms created in Madadeni, Newcastle, Dundee and Hlabisa. We accepted 126 Nelson Mandela-Fidel Castro medical students returning from Cuba in addition to the 100 who arrived in 2018 and we have successfully integrated these students into the MBCHB programme. These students have been accommodated in residences in Addington and RK Khan Hospitals, which were given to UKZN on rent free 5 year leases. Plans are underway to create more student residences in Port Shepstone and the Medical campus. Park homes have been purchased for many of the rural sites attached to our rural teaching block.

TRANSPORT

In order to significantly reduce our transport costs in the DCTP, we purchased a new bus and two Toyota Avanzas, thus bringing our own CHS owned fleet to 3 buses and 10 cars. All site administrators are expected to also drive the vehicles and transport students to hospital sites and to their residences. This has resulted in a monthly saving of an estimated R150 000.



CHALLENGES

One of the significant challenges we have been experiencing is the shortage of laboratory space and new equipment for undergraduate teaching. Out of our CHS strategic funds, we have refurbished and bought equipment for the laboratories in the Discipline of Speech Language Therapy, Audiology and the Histology Laboratories on the Westville campus as well as the Undergraduate Medical Laboratory on the Medical campus. However, we require much more funding to complete the refurbishment of all our undergraduate laboratories.

Residences remain another challenge for our College, just like the rest of the university. In August, the medical students went on protest over the conditions of one of the residences and had to be moved to another residence since the place was not habitable. We plan to build our own residence in Medical School, provided we can secure the land opposite King Edward Hospitals, negotiations are taking plans with the Ethekewini Municipality to source this plot of land.

The unsigned Joint Health Education (JHE) agreement remains a challenge because the HPCSA has given us an ultimatum to have a functional agreement between UKZN and the KZN DOH before 2020 or else they will review our training status. We hope to meet this requirement, and we plan to submit the draft agreement at the December sitting of UKZN Council.

Substantial progress was made in recruiting HOD positions for the Medical Disciplines, however the HOD post of Oncology in Durban remains unfilled despite headhunting and advertising.

20



UNIVERSITY OF
KWAZULU-NATAL™
INYUVESI
YAKWAZULU-NATALI

**COLLEGE OF
HEALTH SCIENCES**

George Campbell Building

Howard College Campus

Durban

19