

A profile of the 2009 Discovery Foundation Awards recipients

Investing in medical education
Creating a healthier South Africa



Touching people's lives



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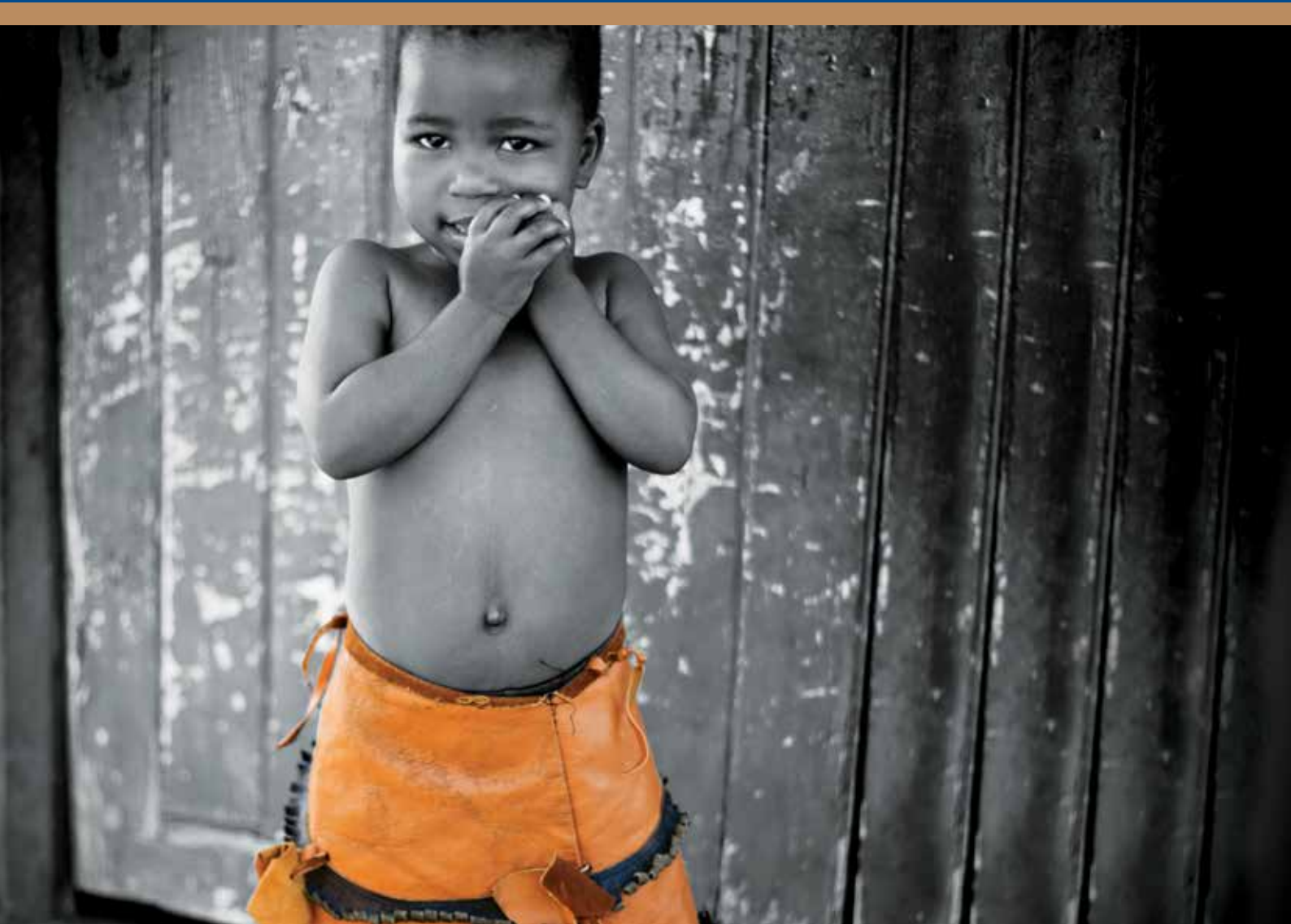
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Foreword by Vincent Maphai, Chairperson of the Discovery Foundation

The state of a country's healthcare system is only as good as the quality of the healthcare professionals it produces. South Africa is proud of its world-class healthcare professionals. This high quality is the key to ensuring that the country's healthcare system grows and thrives. We therefore need to continue to invest in the development of high calibre healthcare professionals if we want to see that world-class standard preserved. The Discovery Foundation leads the way in addressing these challenges by increasing the number of highly trained healthcare professionals. The country simply does not have sufficient skilled and experienced professionals to teach medical skills.

It is now two years since we introduced the first recipients of the Discovery Foundation. In 2008 the Foundation awarded 20 awards amounting to more than R10 million. We are proud of the achievements of our first recipients so far. We will soon celebrate the results of their hard work.

Today, however, we celebrate the achievements of a new group of talented healthcare professionals. The quality of all the candidates' work was impressive and while their research will address our

country's most important healthcare needs, their pioneering work will also make a positive impact on the lives of the patients affected by a specific disease or condition, locally and internationally.

This year we are proud to announce a new category of awards to add to the already successful Academic Fellowship Awards and Excellence Awards. This category is the Discovery Foundation Sub-specialist Awards.

The Discovery Foundation Sub-specialist Awards aim to address the shortage of specialists in South Africa. These awards intend to encourage outstanding black medical graduates to take on specialist training in disciplines other than family medicine. The Discovery Foundation Sub-specialist Awards are eight awards of R450 000 each.

I'm also excited to inform you of the Discovery Foundation Alumni, whose members are all recipients of a Discovery Foundation Award. Established last year, the Discovery Foundation Alumni aims to give its members an opportunity to network with peers and in this way, contribute celebrating their academic achievements and encourage continuous learning.

The first Alumni conference will take place on 12 June 2009. This will be their opportunity to identify areas of concerns, make recommendations and develop strategies that would be deliverable in South Africa and to facilitate medical academic dialogue.

Please join us in congratulating the 2009 recipients of the Discovery Foundation Awards. We are proud to partner with you and wish you well in your chosen fields.

Vincent Maphai
Chairperson
Discovery Foundation



Overview of the 2009 Discovery Foundation Awards

Awards that address areas of greatest need in South Africa's healthcare sector

The Discovery Foundation made 22 awards in three categories aimed at benefiting academic medicine, specialist resources and healthcare service delivery, innovation and training.

The Discovery Foundation Academic Fellowship Awards

This award aims to address shortfalls in medical training in the field of academic medicine. It gives the recipient the opportunity to take on a 12- to 18-month period of fulltime study and research for a Masters degree (by dissertation or thesis), publish research or take on research leading to publication. It will also generally improve his or her training in a chosen field of specialisation.

During this time, the recipient may choose to spend up to six months at a leading research centre overseas. In general, the candidate will be expected to work fulltime on research other than for limited clinical work in an academic setting and may not undertake private practice during the fellowship.

The Discovery Foundation Sub-specialist Awards

The Discovery Foundation Sub-specialist Awards intend to encourage outstanding black medical graduates to take on specialist training in disciplines other than family medicine in South Africa.

The Discovery Foundation Excellence Award

The Discovery Foundation Excellence Award aims to boost organisations that display excellence in service delivery, training and innovation to benefit South African healthcare, particularly if they strengthen human resources in the sector.

Recipients

We are pleased to announce the 2009 Discovery Foundation Awards recipients:

Discovery Foundation Academic Fellowship Awards

In search of excellence through knowledge

- Dr Gregory Calligaro
- Dr Ashley Chin
- Dr Jacqueline Hoare
- Dr Hoosain Khalfey
- Dr Zinhle Makatini
- Dr Michael Thamaga Mogogane
- Dr Ntobeko Ntusi
- Dr Shaheen Pandie
- Dr Gregory Symons
- Dr Albertha Terblanche
- Dr Adele Visser

Discovery Foundation Sub-specialist Awards

Encouraging our leading experts

- Universities of Cape Town and Limpopo – Dr Ponti Mphahlele
- Universities of Cape Town and Limpopo – Dr Naayil Rajabally
- University of Pretoria – Dr Albertha Terblanche
- University of Pretoria – Dr Inet Pretorius
- University of Pretoria – Dr Nicolette du Plessis
- University of the Witwatersrand – Dr Despinah Demopolous
- University of the Witwatersrand – Dr Sze Wai Chan
- University of the Free State – Dr Lelanie Pretorius
- University of Stellenbosch

Discovery Foundation Excellence Awards

Service delivery, training and innovation

- University of the Free State – Department of Ophthalmology - University of Free State
- University of Cape Town – Department of Medicine, Groote Schuur Hospital



Discovery Foundation Academic Fellowship Awards

Dr Gregory Calligaro

Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery (MBChB), University of the Witwatersrand; Fellowship of the College of Physicians of South Africa (FCP), Colleges of Medicine of South Africa

Dr Calligaro is the Registrar of Internal Medicine at Groote Schuur Hospital for the University of Cape Town. His previous work experience includes working as a Registrar for Accidents and Emergencies at St George's Hospital in London. He also worked as a Community Services Doctor in Emergency Medicine at GF Jooste Hospital in Cape Town. His research involves a clinical, radiological and pathophysiological study of chronic obstructive lung disease in patients with HIV infection receiving antiretroviral treatment.

Through his work Dr Calligaro hopes to further his clinical and research training and become a clinician scientist in the pulmonology and infectious diseases fields, to address the growing burden of acute and chronic respiratory diseases in South Africa. In 2006, he received the Best Junior Clinician Award for the Department of Cardiology at Groote Schuur Hospital. He is currently studying towards his MMed.



Dr Ashley Chin

Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery (MBChB), University of Cape Town; Fellowship of the College of Physicians of South Africa at Groote Schuur Hospital

Dr Chin is a Specialist Physician, Cardiologist and Trainee in Cardiac Electrophysiology at Groote Schuur Hospital, University of Cape Town. His previous work experience includes working as a Senior Cardiology Registrar and Specialist Physician at Groote Schuur Hospital. He also worked as a Consultant Physician for Musgrave Park Hospital in Belfast, Northern Ireland. His research involves tachycardia-induced cardiomyopathy, and non-invasive electrocardiographic imaging.

Through his work Dr Chin hopes to practise as a specialist physician cardiologist with a special interest in cardiac electrophysiology at a public healthcare training institution in South Africa. In 2008 he received the RC Fraser Interventional Fellowship Award.



Dr Jacqueline Hoare

Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery (MBChB); FCPsych, Colleges of Medicine of South Africa

Dr Hoare is a Senior Registrar in Neuropsychiatry at the HIV Neuropsychiatry Unit at Grootte Schuur Hospital. Her previous work experience includes working as a Registrar at Valkenberg Hospital and the Red Cross Childrens Hospital in the Western Cape. She also worked as Senior House Officer, General Adult Psychiatry, Psychiatric ICU at Lewisham University Hospital in London. Her research involves the relationship between prospective memory and neuro-imaging among HIV-positive individuals in South Africa.

Through her work, Dr Hoare hopes to contribute towards reducing mental illness through research on mind, brain and behaviour, as well as to improve approaches to diagnosing and treating psychiatric illness. In 2008 she received an MRC Fellowship.



Dr Hoosain Khalfey

Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery (MBChB), University of Cape Town; Fellowship of the College of Physicians of South Africa at Grootte Schuur Hospital

Dr Khalfey is a Senior Registrar and Fellow in Pulmonology at Grootte Schuur Hospital. His previous work experience includes working as a Medical Registrar at Grootte Schuur Hospital. He also worked as a Casualty Officer at Gatesville Medical Centre. His research involves the pulmonary infiltrates in HIV patients in South Africa – aetiology and incremental value of flexible bronchoscopy.

Through his work Dr Khalfey hopes to get significantly involved in clinical work, including intensive care, as part of following a career in academic medicine. In 1995 he was on the Dean's merit list. He is currently studying towards MPhil certificate in pulmonology.



Discovery Foundation Academic Fellowship Awards

Dr Zinhle Makatini

Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery (MBChB), University of Sheffield, Masters in Immunology of Infectious Diseases, University of London, School of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene

Dr Makatini is a Clinical Virologist for the Department of Virology at the University of Limpopo. Her previous work experience includes working as Acting Principal Investigator and Head of Laboratory. Her research involves exploring the extent to which standard genotyping methods in various patient populations miss drug resistance mutations.

Through her work Dr Makatini hopes to set herself up along South Africa's best clinical scientists in academic medicine, carving out a niche in HIV resistance. She serves as the Contributing Editor for the Clinical Dictionary of ARVs (Department of Health). She is currently studying towards MMed Virology at University of the Witwatersrand/University of Limpopo.



Dr Michael Thamaga Mogogane

Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery (MBChB), University of the Witwatersrand

Dr Mogogane is a Medical Registrar at the Chris Hani Baragwanath Hospital for the University of the Witwatersrand. His previous work experience includes working as a Medical Officer for the Department of Anaesthetics at Leratong Hospital. He also worked as a Community Service/ Medical Officer for Thusong Community Hospital. His research involves the effects of ascorbic acid administration in treating anaemia of chronic disorder in dialysis patients on high doses of recombinant erythropoietin (EPO).

Through his work Dr Mogogane hopes to sub-specialise in nephrology or kidney medicine, regularly visiting regional hospitals as part of community outreach programmes. In 2001 and 2003 he received the Israel Bersohn Prize in Chemical Pathology and the Health Graduate Association Award for the Top Health Science Student respectively.



Dr Ntobeko Bubele Ayanda Ntusi

Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery (MBChB), University of Cape Town

Dr Ntusi is a Medical Registrar for the Department of Medicine at Groote Schuur Hospital. His previous work experience includes an internship and community service at Frere Hospital in East London. He also worked as a Community Service/Medical Officer for Thusong Community Hospital and participated in a post-graduate programme in Internal Medicine at University of Cape Town. His research involves tissue characterisation in rheumatic diseases by multi-parametric cardiovascular magnetic resonance imaging.

Through his work Dr Ntusi hopes to join a doctoral fellowship tenable at Oxford University for further training in cardiac magnetic resonance to study cardiac conditions that often occur in South Africa. In 2003, he received the Bernard Pimstone Award for best clinical research presentation by a medical student for the Department of Medicine, University of Cape Town, at Annual Research Day. He is studying towards a Fellowship of the College of Physicians of South Africa at Groote Schuur Hospital, University of Cape Town.



Dr Shaheen Pandie

Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery (MBChB), University of Cape Town

Dr Pandie is a Medical Registrar for the Department of Internal Medicine at Groote Schuur Hospital for the University of Cape Town. His previous work experience includes working as a Medical Officer for Internal Medicine at Tygerberg Hospital. He also worked as a Senior Medical Officer for the Emergency Medicine and Cardiology at Groote Schuur Hospital, University of Cape Town and as an Emergency Medicine Registrar at Mater Hospital in Brisbane, Australia. His research involves managing a pericarditis pilot trial.

Through his work Dr Pandie hopes to do cutting edge, ground-breaking research and clinical work, focusing on electrophysiology and interventional cardiology.



Discovery Foundation Academic Fellowship Awards

Dr Gregory Symons

Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery (MBChB), University of Cape Town

Dr Symons is a Senior Registrar for the Respiratory Clinic at Groote Schuur Hospital in Cape Town. His previous work experience includes working as a specialist physician in the Groote Schuur Hospital's Department of Medicine. His research involves tissue high-dose isoniazid (INH) to treat Extremely Drug Resistant tuberculosis (XDR TB).

Through his work Dr Symons hopes to provide care and answers to patients on a personal level and also to provide realistic, attainable healthcare solutions to a far wider population of South Africans. He is studying towards an MMed at the University of Cape Town. He is also pursuing a fellowship in respiratory medicine.



Dr Albertha Terblanche

Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery (MBChB), University of Pretoria

Dr Terblanche is a Fellow in Paediatric Gastroenterology for the Department of Paediatrics and Child Health at the Steve Biko Academic Hospital. Her previous work experience includes working as a Registrar for the Department of Paediatrics at Steve Biko Academic Hospital. Her research involves completing a fellowship in paediatric gastroenterology.

Through her work Dr Terblanche hopes to manage a referral centre for patients with specific gastroenterology needs and to transfer knowledge to other paediatricians. In 2001 she received the Nestle Prize for best achievement in paediatrics. She also received the Protea Holdings Prize for best achievement in final examination in surgery. She is studying towards an MMed at the University of Pretoria.



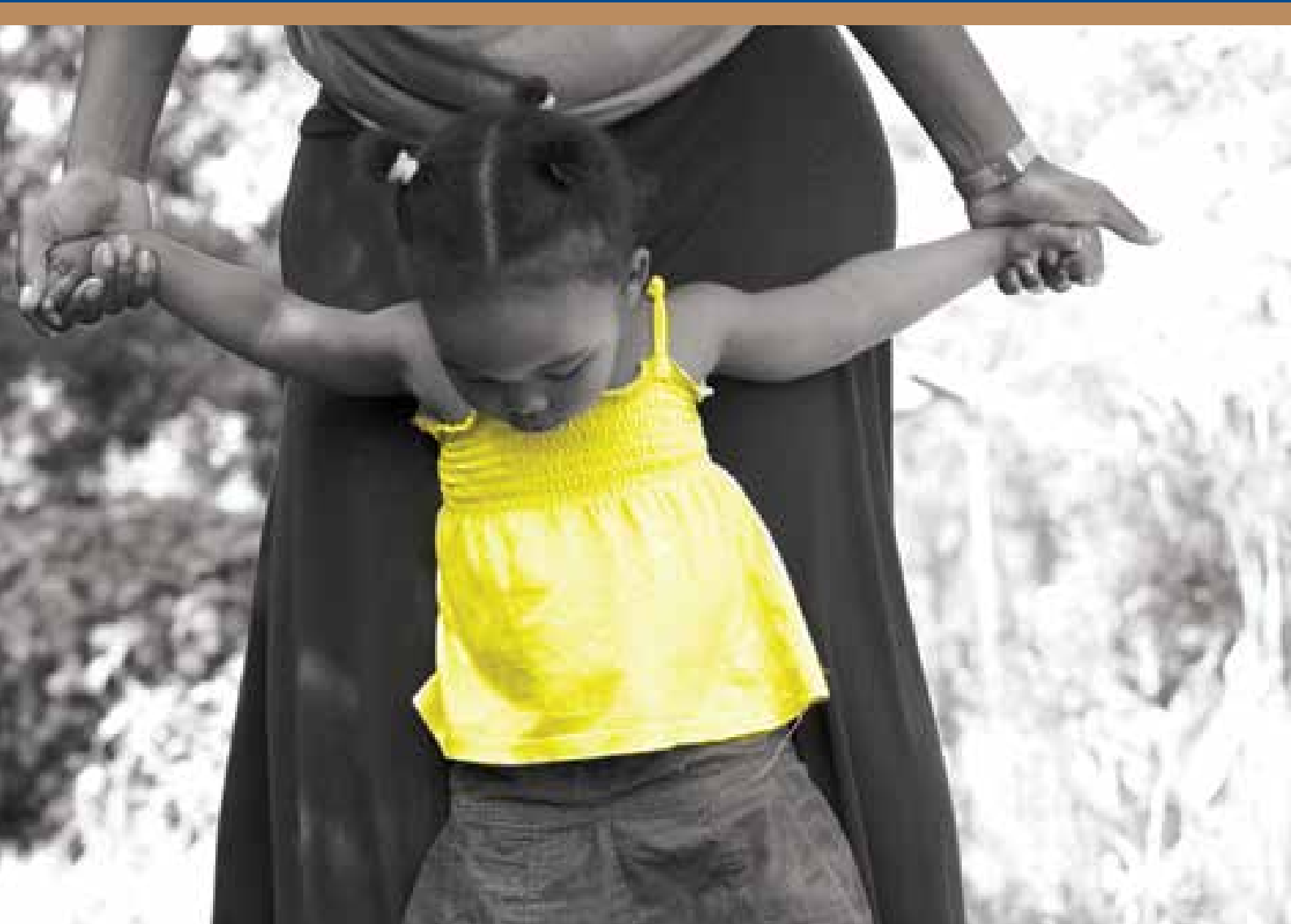
Dr Adele Visser

Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery (MBChB), University of Pretoria

Dr Visser is a Senior Registrar for the Department of Clinical Pathology at Steve Biko Academic Hospital. Her previous work experience includes community service at Witbank Hospital. Her research involves discovering more about respiratory syncytial virus, a pathogen that causes pneumonia in children.

Through her work Dr Visser hopes to impact community health on a larger scale by developing new therapeutic agents to fight infectious disease. In 2007, she received the second prize for best oral presentation at the Molecular Cell Biology Group Symposium.





Discovery Foundation Sub-specialist Awards



Universities of Cape Town and Limpopo – Division of Gastroenterology

The Gastroenterology Clinic is a multi-disciplinary clinical unit consisting of medical and surgical components. The clinic carries a large clinical load and offers a number of specialised services, with clinical and applied research interests in hepatobiliary disease, colorectal disease, oesophageal disease, inflammatory bowel disease, H. Pylori related disease and nutrition. The clinic is involved in a number of collaborative research projects.

Fellow: Dr Muhammad Naayil Rajabally

Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery (MBBCh) at the University of the Witwatersrand

Dr Rajabally is a Consultant for the Medical Admission Unit at Groote Schuur Hospital. His previous work experience includes specialising in Internal Medicine at Groote Schuur Hospital for the University of Cape Town. His research involves gastroenterology to fulfil the mission of academic medicine.



Universities of Cape Town and Limpopo – Division of Infectious Diseases

The Groote Schuur Clinical Infectious Diseases / HIV Unit provides tertiary level care for Infectious Disease (ID) and HIV patients within the hospital and to the University of Cape Town's allied secondary level hospitals. A clinical consult service is provided, which handles over 40 referrals a month. A team of HIV counsellors, infection control nurses and clinic staff give vital ancillary services to the Division. GSH-HIV, a collaboration between the clinical infectious diseases/HIV unit, the paediatric HIV unit and HIV neuropsychiatry has been formed to expedite, optimise and increase access to ARV treatment at Groote Schuur and outreach sites. Partners include the Groote Schuur Infectious Diseases/HIV Unit, GF Jooste HIV Unit, Desmond Tutu HIV Centre, and the Laboratory of Mycobacterial Immunology (IIDMM).

Fellow: Dr Ponti Mphahlele

MMed, Internal Medicine at University of Limpopo

Dr Barkley 'Ponti' Mphahlele is a coordinator of MBChB VI at the University of Limpopo. His previous work experience includes having a private practice in general medicine in Letlhabile, Brits, North West province. His research involves the outcome of admissions of anti-TB drug-induced hepatitis, as a prospective project.



Discovery Foundation Sub-specialist Awards

University of Pretoria – Paediatric Gastroenterology Unit

The unit is based at the Steve Biko Academic Hospital. Together with the departments of paediatric surgery and adult gastroenterology, a comprehensive service is offered. The unit was granted recognition for sub-specialist training in paediatric gastroenterology even though the academic hospital has not made provision for a formal staff establishment. The first fellow was appointed at the beginning of 2008 and has already made her mark in researching a common serious liver condition of young infants. As a result, the clinical service and work load is expanding rapidly.

Fellow: Dr Albertha Terblanche

MMed (Paed) at University of Pretoria

Dr Terblanche is a Fellow in Paediatric Gastroenterology in the Department of Paediatrics and Child Health at Steve Biko Academic Hospital. Her previous work experience includes doing community service at the then Pretoria Academic Hospital, Pretoria and then Registrar in the Department of Paediatrics.



University of Pretoria – Infectious Diseases Unit

The Clinical Infectious Diseases Unit of the School of Medicine, University of Pretoria, is a combined unit of the Departments of Paediatrics and Internal Medicine. The Health Professions Council (HPCSA) granted it registration as a training unit last year. The first fellow started training in January 2009 after funding was obtained through a Discovery Foundation Award. The training programme concentrates on areas of great need in our country namely HIV, tuberculosis, respiratory- and gastrointestinal infections, as well as immunisation. Apart from the training of undergraduate students and registrars, the unit also aids in training outside the School of Medicine and the University.

Fellow: Dr Nicolette du Plessis

Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery (MBBCh) at the University of Stellenbosch, Fellowship of the College of Paediatrics (SA)

Dr du Plessis is a Fellow in Paediatric Infectious Diseases at the University of Pretoria. Her previous work experience includes paediatric training at the University of Pretoria Hospital. She has a special interest in infectious diseases, immunology and allergies.



University of Pretoria – Paediatric Neurology

The Health Professions Council of South Africa (HPCSA) accredited the Paediatric Neurology Unit (PNU) as a training unit for sub-specialists in 2004. It is a division of the Department of Paediatrics at the University of Pretoria with service delivery taking place at Steve Biko Academic Hospital. The unit has three important service components, including training, service delivery and research. It is also involved in the neuronetwork in the area that promotes collaboration between all the primary healthcare facilities involved in the rehabilitation and care of the patients, schools and the private sector. The paediatric neuro-rehabilitation facility at the Tshwane Rehabilitation Centre is also an integral part of the unit and a unique service is developed there to empower mothers of children with disabilities for the long-term care and home-based rehabilitation.



Fellow: Dr Inet Pretorius

Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery (MBChB) at the University of Pretoria

Dr Pretorius is a private paediatrician at the Montana and Eugene Marais private hospitals in Pretoria. Her previous work experience includes being a Senior Registrar in Paediatrics at the Royal Hospital for Sick Children in Edinburgh, Scotland. She was also Registrar in Paediatrics at the University of Pretoria.

University of the Witwatersrand – Division of Medical Oncology

The Division of Medical Oncology is a sub-specialist unit in the Department of Medicine at the University of the Witwatersrand and offers tertiary oncology services to a large population of South Africa; the country and is responsible for training sub-specialists in the field of medical oncology. The Division was initially established as a haematology unit before the development of treatments for solid malignancies. The unit continues to treat haematological malignancies but the vast majority of its work is involved in the treatment of solid organ malignancies working in close relationship with gynaecological oncologists, surgical gastroenterologists and interventional radiologists.

Wits University Donald Gordon Medical Centre



Fellow: Dr Sze Wai Chan

Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery (MBBCh) at University of Witwatersrand

Dr Chan is a Medical Oncology Fellow at Charlotte Maxeke Johannesburg Academic Hospital (formerly Johannesburg General Hospital). Dr Chan's previous experience includes working as Medical Registrar for the University of Witwatersrand and resident Medical Officer at various UK private hospitals under Cape Medical Services and RMO International. Dr Chan's interests lie in Budd-Chiari syndrome, tick bite fever and young stroke.

Discovery Foundation Sub-specialist Awards

University of the Witwatersrand – Intensive Care Unit

The Intensive Care Unit is a 36-bed multidisciplinary unit that services all the adult and paediatric medical and surgical disciplines with the exception of neonatal patients. The ICU runs 90% or more bed occupancy all year round and admits an average of 800 to 1000 patients a year. Sixty percent of these are adult patients and the remainder is paediatric. The adult patients are a heterogeneous group with admission diagnoses including trauma, pneumonia, myocardial infarct, septicaemia, drug and herbal poisonings, acute respiratory distress syndrome (ARDS), malaria, etc.

Fellow: Dr Despinah Demopolous

MBBCh (Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery), University of the Witwatersrand; College of Medicine of South Africa FCPaed (SA)

Dr Demopolous is a Paediatric Registrar training for the University of the Witwatersrand Paediatric Department. Her previous work experience includes working as Locum SPR (Specialist Paediatric Registrar) for Queen Mary's University Hospital for Children in Surrey, UK.

Wits University Donald Gordon Medical Centre



University of the Free State – The Division of Clinical Haematology

The Division of Clinical Haematology, established in 1971 and functioning under the Department of Internal Medicine at the University of the Free State, is a dynamic division with a clear vision. It provides all the tertiary care services in clinical haematology for the Free State, the Northern Cape, the Kingdom of Lesotho and the bordering towns of the Eastern Cape and the Northwest province. The unit serve approximately 40% of the geographical area of South Africa.

Fellow: Dr Lelanie Pretorius

MBChB; MMed-Haematology

Dr Pretorius is a Consultant Specialist in haematology at the National Health Laboratory Service in a joint-appointment with the University of the Free State. Her previous work experience includes working as a Senior Medical Officer (and Acting Head of Clinical Departments) for the Phekolong District Hospital. She is currently studying towards a Postgraduate Diploma in Transfusion Medicine (2008 – 2009) at the Department of Haematology and Cell Biology, Faculty of Health Sciences, University of the Free State.



University of Stellenbosch – Neonatal Division

The Neonatal Division of Tygerberg Children's Hospital (TBCH) provides medical and surgical tertiary and secondary level of care for the 46 000 infants delivered in the eastern parts of the Cape Town Metropole, as well as the rural Western Cape. The neonatal intensive care unit (NICU) is well equipped with sophisticated equipment such as high frequency oscillators and devices for administering nitric oxide to infants. The Division of Neonatology at Tygerberg Children's Hospital has been at the forefront of innovative research in Neonatology in South Africa.



Discovery Foundation Excellence Awards

Department of Ophthalmology, University of the Free State

Formed in 1975 and affiliated to the Department of Health, the Department of Ophthalmology at the Faculty of Health Sciences at the University of the Free State started outreach programmes in 1982.

It has set up three permanent eye care centres in the past six years. Through developing eye care services, the department is actively improving healthcare to disadvantaged communities. It has a proven track record of excellence in service delivery and training. The department has graduated 40 postgraduate students as ophthalmologists and has treated around 10 000 eye patients every year since 1982 – totalling 260 000 (14 000 patients in 2008). The department also engages in other ophthalmology surgeries.

The Award will help to address and relieve the plight of rural blindness by removing preventable blindness as well as the surgical restoration of curable blindness through permanent eye care centres in the Free State and surrounds.



Department of Medicine, Groote Schuur Hospital

The Department of Medicine at the University of Cape Town is playing a leading role in medical education and research in South Africa. It provides clinical services to the communities of the Western Cape and tertiary services to patients throughout Africa. Clinical services are provided at Groote Schuur Hospital; GF Jooste, Victoria; Somerset Hospital and in Khayelitsha Day Hospital. The department offers clinical and research training in cardiology, critical care, dermatology, endocrinology and diabetes medicine, clinical immunology, general internal medicine, hepatology, lipidology, neurology, nephrology, pharmacology, pulmonology and rheumatology. These courses are taught by leading clinicians of international standing. Currently more than 1 000 students are enrolled.

The department is a recognised centre of excellence in medical research and has world-class research teams and many major research units – such as the only institute for ageing in Africa, the MRC/UCT Liver Research Centre.

The Award will help to provide a support structure for training academic clinicians through research. The increasing numbers of Discovery Fellows and other research trainees has clearly shown the need to set up a central clinical research support unit to ensure a lasting expansion of the work of producing academic clinicians.



GROOTE SCHUUR HOSPITAL



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