



## Staff & Student Achievements

### Microbiology Division

#### ENTERIC DISEASES REFERENCE UNIT

Dr Karen Keddy was invited to attend the first Anglophone WHO/Global Salm Surv Level 1 workshop held in Africa as a lecturer. The workshop was hosted by Kenya Medical Research Institute in Nairobi, Kenya from 29 October to 3 November, 2007.

<http://www.who.int/salmsurv/en/>

Dr Karen Keddy has been invited to become a Member of the newly formed WHO Foodborne Disease Burden Epidemiology Reference Group (FERG) and will attend the initial meeting in Geneva from 26 to 29 November 2007.

[http://www.who.int/foodsafety/foodborne\\_disease/ferg/en/index.html](http://www.who.int/foodsafety/foodborne_disease/ferg/en/index.html)

#### NATIONAL MICROBIOLOGY SURVEILLANCE UNIT

Dr ST Meiring: Diploma in Tropical Medicine & Hygiene (DTM&H), University of the Witwatersrand was awarded with distinction

#### PARASITOLOGY REFERENCE UNIT

A/Prof J Frean was elected Fellow of the Faculty of Travel Medicine, Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Glasgow.

#### RESPIRATORY & MENINGEAL PATHOGENS REFERENCE UNIT

Ms Mothibeli was nominated by the Dean of the Faculty of Health Sciences to participate in a "Research Boot Camp", advertised for staff from all faculties at Wits. Her application was successful and she was one of 15 participants, 3 from each faculty. The programme included workshops and interventions organized by the Centre for Learning, Teaching and Development (CLTD) at Wits and was spread over the 2007 academic year.

#### SPECIAL BACTERIAL PATHOGENS REFERENCE UNIT

Mrs L Arntzen has been recognized by the World Health Organization as a regional expert on plague.

Mrs R Padayachee was awarded the MSc degree by the University of KwaZulu-Natal.

#### SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED INFECTIONS REFERENCE CENTRE

Prof David Lewis was appointed to the position of Honorary Associate Professor in the Division of Medical Microbiology at the University of Cape Town.

Prof David Lewis was elected to the World Executive Committee of the International Society for Sexually Transmitted Diseases Research (ISSTD).

Mr Frans Radebe won best poster prize at the joint ISSTD-IUSTI world meeting in Seattle, USA, in August 2007 for his poster entitled "Early detection of HIV-1 specific lymphocyte derived antibodies in a high risk population".

Mr Sakhile Mhlongo won best poster prize at the 2<sup>nd</sup> FIDSSA congress in Spier, South Africa, in October 2007.

#### VECTOR CONTROL REFERENCE UNIT

Prof M Coetzee achieved NRF rating B.

Prof M Coetzee was awarded NRF South African Research Chair in Medical Entomology and Vector Control.

Prof M Coetzee was appointed to the Scientific Advisory Committee of the WHO/TDR Business Line 5, Innovative Vector Control.

Dr LL Koekemoer was elected Fellow of the Royal Entomological Society of London.

Dr LL Koekemoer achieved NRF rating C.

H Abdalla graduated Msc.

### Virology Division

#### AIDS VIRUS RESEARCH UNIT

Prof Tiemessen was reappointed to the Editorial Board of Clinical and Vaccine Immunology for the 3<sup>rd</sup> 3-year term (2007-2009)

Prof Tiemessen has been appointed Chairperson of the IBC (Institutional Biosafety Committee) Witwatersrand University as of January 2007.

Prof Tiemessen accepted an invitation to serve as a member of the Poliomyelitis Research Foundation Scientific Advisory Panel (PRF SAP) (January 2007).

### RESPIRATORY VIRUS UNIT

Dr Besselaar received an invitation from the WHO Assistant Director-General for Communicable Diseases, Dr David Heymann, to serve as a member of the IHR Roster of Experts as an expert in influenza for a period of four years.

Ms Dhamari Naidoo was awarded a masters degree (MSc Med) from the Department of Human Genetics, NHLS, Braamfontein.

### VIRAL GASTROENTERITIS

“Molecular characterization of multidrug-resistant *Salmonella* *Isangi* in hospitalized patients in South Africa” MSc (Med) Dissertation T Kruger, Graduated June 2007.

## Epidemiology Division

### EPIDEMIOLOGY & SURVEILLANCE UNIT

Dr Cheryl Cohen was awarded a fellowship to attend the 8th Advanced Vaccinology Course in Annecy, France, from 14-25 May 2007.

### SAFELTP

Mrs Lulu Khumalo, Ms Mmampedi Huma and Ms Phumzile Zondo were awarded the runner up prize for their poster presentations at the AFENET conference.

Dr Elizabeth Prentice is a member of the University of the Witwatersrand Ethics Committee.

Dr Harris is a member of the National EPI Task Group.

Dr Faustine Ndugulile is a member of the working group for the Centre for Integrated Laboratory training.

## Special Programmes

### TB FOCUS PROGRAMME & NATIONAL TUBERCULOSIS REFERENCE LABORATORY

Professor Hendrik Koornhof, together with Professor Marie-Louise Newell, Director of the Wellcome Trust funded Africa Centre for Health and Population Studies in Rural KwaZulu-Natal and Professor Mino Caira, Director of Supramolecular Chemistry Research at the University of Cape Town served on a panel of adjudicators of research projects conducted by young health scientists of BSc Hons status throughout the country. These projects were presented in Durban at the Pfizer Young Scientists Research Day in October 2008 by students “at the threshold of their research careers” who were selected from faculties of Health Sciences of South African Universities as candidates for two Pfizer prizes in the areas of basic and public health-related research in Health Sciences respectively.