



RHODES UNIVERSITY
Where leaders learn

Faculty of Pharmacy

A review of 2021 and 2022



COMING SOON...



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Faculty of Pharmacy

A review of 2021 and 2022

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from the editor

Chaotic systems, as many of us know from direct experience, are characterised by nonlinear dynamics – small and trivial events giving rise to large and unexpected consequences. Here is an example – if not of chaos per se, at least of nonlinearity. On 4 August (2022) I called in at the nerve centre of the Pharmacy Faculty to collect some marmalade. Linda Emslie's mother makes excellent marmalade, and I've been buying it for years. While I was chatting to Linda, the Dean emerged from his office and noticed me. We exchanged cordial fist contact and he remarked, in leaving, 'We must talk about a review of '21.'

And hence this Review – which became, in the course of negotiation, a Review of the two consecutive years '21 and '22. We will never know whether it would have eventuated had I not been in that office, at that time, and thus by chance fleetingly engaged the decanal attention. (We see each other very seldom.) But it does at least provide an opening to this editorial, and all editorials have to start somewhere. I hope it won't be seen as an example of chaos. [A joke I heard many years ago from Prof John Haigh: Client to bookshop attendant: 'Do you have any books on chaos?' Attendant: 'No, but we have some on order'.]

Yes, well. As mentioned, this is a two-year review. We decided to telescope two years so as to reduce the lag phase between the appearance of a review and the events recorded in it. We had, for various reasons, got a year out of phase. Our previous Review, of 2020, appeared at the end of 2021. Ideally, it should have appeared around graduation time of 2021, or even earlier. Had we now produced a Review only of 2021, it

would have appeared, at best, at the end of 2022: no improvement on the previous one, and such a plan carried the danger that we would, in the reality, drop even further behind. With a 'double feature', we will have '21 and '22 reviewed by, with luck and some compliance, early in '23. You get the drift of the argument. We hope you agree with us that there is some potential improvement in the situation as we have configured it.

As noted in our last Review, it is our evolved policy to confine editorial comment to matters parochial and positive. Hence my opening reference to marmalade. But all things are connected, thus I alluded also to chaos, order and nonlinearity for good measure. Connections are indeed difficult to avoid, especially in institutions, and amongst people, whose business is to make, study and discuss connections.

'Make me one with everything' can be contextualised either as a menu order to a hamburger vendor in his kiosk, or as a prayer to the higher powers that shift the pieces on Nature's chessboard. (I'm indebted to the late Christopher Hitchens for this particular connection.)

Continuing the rather abstruse line of discourse, our heavy brush with COVID-19 – by no means finished – has been replaced, as a conversation piece and thorn in the flesh, by loadshedding. COVID was, and still is, a pandemic, thus has overtones of holism. Loadshedding, though widely and sporadically experienced outside this country, is 'currently' (pun intended) a local manifestation of the imperfections that flesh is heir to.

We can see COVID and other generic difficulties

as 'external'. It is a challenge largely to the medical and pharmaceutical sectors of society. And those sectors – including their local branches – have done very well. Load shedding is a generically different problem, though related – as everything is – at higher levels. COVID threw us upon our accumulated knowledge and other resources and brought our strengths to the fore. Load-shedding is a symptom of our weaknesses – the 'other side' of humanity's multifaceted nature. It represents an interim culmination of mismanagement, and there is more, also of multifaceted aspect, in the pipeline. Prodromal signs are everywhere apparent.

The underlying pathology requires a different

set of responses, and a different mind-set. Such things are difficult to change. Wearing masks and washing our hands won't protect us from load sheds. The demon is internal.

But our marmalade is good, and we sincerely echo the upbeat theme of the Dean's message. The Pharmacy Faculty has done very well indeed, and a round of applause is well-deserved. Congratulations to all of you. We wish you, personally and collectively, a happy and fulfilling year.

Editor.



from the dean

As we move into the final weeks of 2022 and take a look back at the last two years, we celebrate all members of the Faculty of Pharmacy for their resilience, commitment, and outstanding performance. My first email to the Faculty in early January 2021 was written in the context of uncertainty. At the time we were monitoring the COVID-19 outbreak, preparing ourselves for hybrid (online/in-person) teaching and learning activities, as well as taking steps to reduce the risk of exposure to COVID-19 for our staff and students. After the challenges of 2020 we knew we must be ready for anything. Reflecting on what has happened since then I am amazed by, and grateful for, all we have accomplished together.

Staff and students faced circumstances that were completely beyond our control and truly unimaginable prior to 2020, but somehow, we made it through. We paid special attention to our international students as many of them faced unique circumstances in 2021 and the start of year 2022. It was incredibly difficult to manage the shift from face-to-face to online, to hybrid, and back to face-to-face in such a short time. But that did not stop us all from putting forth Herculean efforts to succeed. Along with the challenges of the pandemic, many heart-warming stories surfaced and served as reminders of the good in humanity.

We had a monitoring visit in 2021 from the South African Pharmacy Council (SAPC). It was a good opportunity to reflect on the work of the last 4 years and to demonstrate to the Council that even during the challenges of 2020 and 2021 we had managed to present a quality program.

We want to congratulate all our students who graduated in the last two years. In 2021 there were 36 Masters' graduates and 12 PhD graduates. In 2022 we had 34 Masters' graduates and 14 PhD graduates. Including the undergraduate students, the total headcount was about 750 students. I am thrilled to share that the Faculty of Pharmacy broke the record again: 173 students graduated with a BPharm degree in 2022.

The students' perseverance and tenacity to complete their degrees speaks to their commitment and vision. As a Faculty, we joined many in the celebrations. Our graduates continued to shine through the thick, grey clouds of COVID-19 and their success is our reward. I am immensely proud of our shared capacity to adapt, grow, and care for one another as colleagues with the shared objective of providing a great education for our students.

We must also acknowledge our current students who have travelled this journey with us and have continued to apply themselves throughout the challenges of the pandemic. We are grateful that you now have the opportunity to experience a "normal" campus life. One of the activities we were able to hold again in 2022 was the White Coat Ceremony. We made up for lost time and the BPharm 3rd-, 2nd- and 1st- year students all got to experience this prestigious event.

The Faculty staff have worked tirelessly: teaching and supporting courses, conducting research, writing scholarly articles, organising and presenting at conferences, mentoring students, involvement in your respective professions and

participating in community engagement projects. There are many notable accomplishments that we all should be incredibly proud of.

Thank you to all of you who took on additional roles that were not in your job descriptions, because you saw a need and volunteered to fill it. You all exemplify the “We Can” spirit, and I am in awe of your “can-do” attitude. You truly inspire me.

The Faculty enrolment continued to grow in 2021 and 2022, but unfortunately, even with this growth the Faculty cannot accommodate all students who qualify and applied to our programme. Through the Clinical Training Grant (CTGP) funds we increased our capacity to visit clinical training sites with the purchase of three vehicles to transport students.

Election of the Dean of the Faculty was conducted mid-2022 and I am honoured to have been elected by the Faculty to take on this significant leadership role.

A number of staff members joined the Faculty:

- Mr Shiraaj Patrick was employed as a Clinical Training Administration Assistant in August 2021.
- Ms Unami Sibanda joined the Faculty on 4 January 2022 as an nGAP lecturer in the Pharmaceutics Division.
- Mr Gregory Purcell joined the Pharmaceutics Division as a lecturer on 1 March 2022.
- Ms Monique Purcell joined the Faculty as a Work-Based Learning Lecturer in 2022.
- Mr Mzukisi Matyumza was employed as a temporary Administration Assistant in August 2022.

We wish them all a fulfilling career in the Faculty. We said goodbye to Dr Sagar Abbo in 2021 and Prof Wilson in 2022 and wish them well.

We also had exciting research developments that you will read about, including

- The installation of a new Fourier-transform infrared instrument and purchase of damping for the Differential Scanning Calorimetry which will expand our research capabilities further.
- Prof David Khanye and the Rhodes University’s Drug Discovery and Pharmaceutical Research Laboratory partnered with the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) to find a potential treatment for the infectious disease, trichomoniasis
- The installation of the electronic tongue opens

up many research opportunities

- Professor Walker received the Vice Chancellor’s Distinguished Research Award in 2022.

Research visits from international guests

In this Faculty Annual Review, we share exciting developments and perspectives on how the Faculty continues to positively impact the community we serve. You will meet Faculty staff, students and alumni who are building and strengthening our community for today and for the future. Above all, higher education provides opportunities for growth and discovery. Among the greatest measures of this growth are the successes of our students and alumni. The range and depth of the lives we touch is enduringly remarkable.

Our Alumni, Research Associates, Emeritus Professors, Clinical Fellows and friends are an integral part of an engaged and connected network that makes up our Pharmacy community. I am deeply grateful for the ways in which you have come together to support our mission with your engagement and generosity. You are the reason we stand stronger today.

However, there is still more to do as we continue to build on our legacy. Recruiting and retaining world-class academic staff, establishing a new identity for our building, and developing an innovative curriculum ensures the Faculty of Pharmacy remains at the forefront of pharmacy education. I am proud that the Faculty of Pharmacy is so deeply aligned with the University Institutional Developmental Plan that is focused on driving bold solutions. We continue to maintain our reputation as a first-choice, Faculty of Pharmacy. We can only accomplish this with your support.

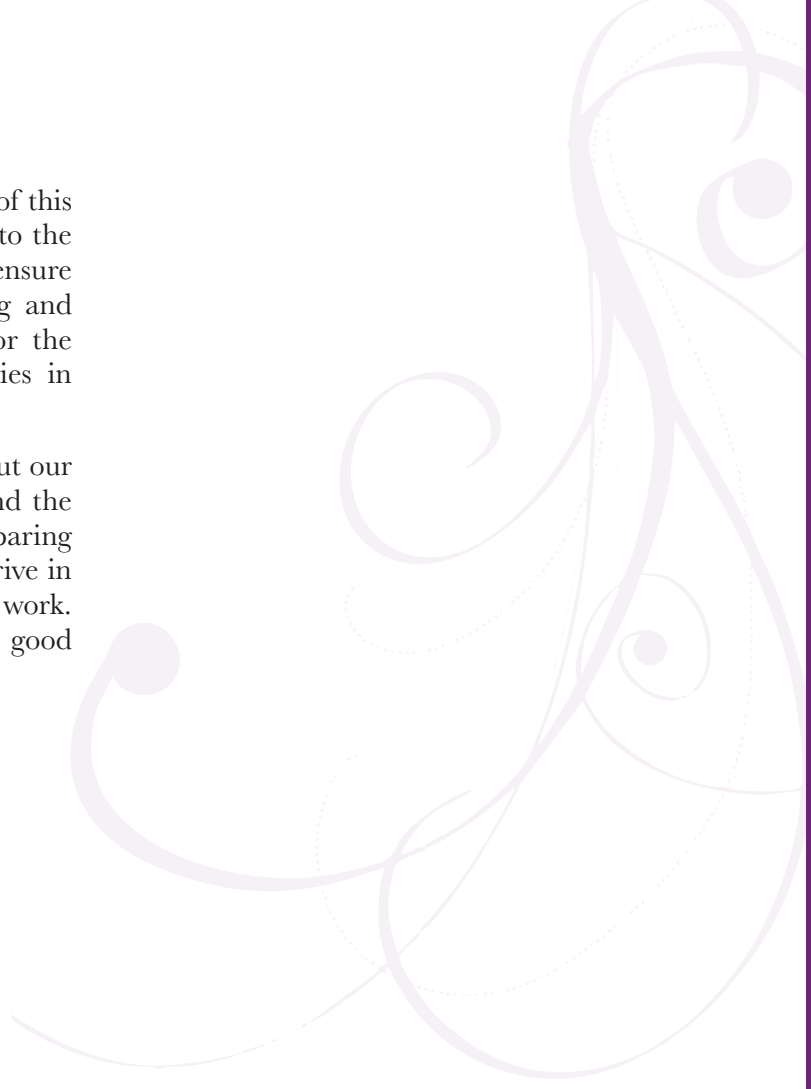
To the Faculty staff, I would like to thank you again for your immense support. You deserve tons of gratitude. You always put aside your personal interests and you always work for the success of the Faculty. During my years as Dean of Pharmacy, it has been a pleasure to watch our work as teacher-educators, researchers, and community partners develop. While the most rewarding indicators of these efforts are the quality of our graduates, the scholarship we publish, and the support we provide our partners in the field, perhaps the most high-profile indicator is seeing our students succeed and making great impact in society.

Our graduates are part of major innovations in medication therapy, and more importantly are

members of health care teams. As bearers of this important responsibility, we are dedicated to the education of every student. Our goal is to ensure that every pharmacy student has a strong and diverse skill set that will prepare them for the unprecedented challenges and opportunities in the 21st century.

I hope you will enjoy finding out more about our work in these pages. When 2023 starts, and the campus is still quiet, we will be here, preparing for the next cohort of students who will arrive in 2023. We hope you will join us in this vital work. We must all thank God for granting us good health and strength.

Professor Sandile Khamanga
Dean: Faculty of Pharmacy



Staff of the Faculty

(as at March 2023)

Dean of the Faculty and Head of Pharmacy

SMM Khamanga *BSc (Swaziland), BPharm, MSc (Pharm), PhD (Rhodes)*

Deputy Dean of the Faculty and Deputy Head of Pharmacy

C Oltmann *BSc (Med) (Hons) (Wits), MSc, BPharm (Rhodes), PGDHET, PhD (Rhodes), MPS(SA)*

Pharmaceutics

Professor of Pharmaceutics

RB Walker *BPharm, PhD (Rhodes) FPS(SA)*

Associate Professor

SMM Khamanga *BSc (Swaziland), BPharm, PhD (Rhodes)*

Lecturer and Head of Division

N Paterson *BPharm, MSc (Pharm) (Rhodes), MHealth Econ and Pharmaecon (UPF)*

Lecturer

GM Purcell, *BPharm, MPharm (NMMU)*

UM Sibanda *BPharm, MPharm (SMU)*

Pharmaceutical Chemistry

Associate Professor

SD Khanye *BSc (Hons) (Wits), MSc (Wits), PhD (UCT)*

Associate Professor

R Tandlich *MS (SUT), PhD (NDSU)*

Head of Division

N Paterson *BPharm, MSc (Pharm) (Rhodes), MHealth Econ and Pharmaecon (UPF)*

Senior Lecturers

ED Goosen *BSc (Hons) (UOFS), MSc (Weizmann Institute), PhD (UFS), HDE (UPE), PGDHE (Rhodes)*

Pharmacy Practice

Associate Professor and Head of Division

SF Burton *Dip Pharm (NT), MSc (Pharmacol) (Rhodes), PhD (Pharm) (NMMU), MPS (SA)*

Senior Lecturer

C Oltmann *BSc (Med) (Hons) (Wits), MSc, BPharm (Rhodes), PGDHET, PhD (Rhodes), MPS(SA)*

Lecturers

C Magadza *BPharm, MPharm (Rhodes)*

F Chiwanza *BPharm, MPharm (Rhodes)*

GZ Ngodwane *BPharm, (Rhodes)*

Lecturer, Clinical Training

DL van Dyk *BSocSci (Nursing), H.B.Soc.Sci (Nursing), PGDip (Nursing Education) (UOFS), MA (Higher Education Studies) (UFS)*

Lecturer, Work-based Learning

M Purcell

Pharmacology

Associate Professor and Head of Division

ME Mothibe *BSc, BSc(Hons), MSc (Med Pharmacology), PhD (Medunsa)*

Senior Lecturer, Pharmacotherapy

L Allan *BPharm, MPharm (Rhodes)*

P Makoni *BPharm, MSc (Pharm) PhD (Rhodes)*
Senior Lecturer, Anatomy and Physiology
N Sibiyi *BMed Sci (Hons) (UKZN), PhD (UKZN)*
Lecturer
H Walsh *BSc, BSc (Hons), PhD (Rhodes)*
Lecturer, Anatomy & Physiology
T Dukhan *BHSc, BHSc Hons, MSc (Med) (Wits)*
Instrument Scientist
Vacant

Honorary Appointments

Visiting Professors

MP Ducharme *BA, BPharm, RPEBC, DPH (Montreal), PharmD (Wayne State), FCCP, FCP*
BD Glass *BPharm, PhD (Rhodes), BSc (Chem) (Hons), BTech (Hons)(UPE), MPS (Aus)*
SC Srinivas *BPharm, MPharm (Bangalore), PGDHE (Rhodes), PhD (RGUHS)*

Visiting Fellows:

PW Hill *DipPharm (Wits), PhD (Rhodes), CMW*
A Gray *BPharm, MSc (Pharm) (Rhodes), FPS, FFIP*
S Patnala *PhD (Rhodes)*
C Veale *BPharm (Rhodes), PhD (Rhodes)*
Y van Deventer, *BPharm, MSc (Pharm) (NWU), MPS (SA)*

Research Associate

BD Patterson *BS (Pharmacy)(NDSU), MS (Hospital Pharmacy), PhD (Iowa)*

Emeritus Professors

S Daya *BSc (UDW), MSc (Rhodes), PhD (MED) (MEDUNSA)*
I Kanfer *BSc (Pharm), BSc (Hons), PhD (Rhodes), MRPharmS, FPS(SA)*
JM Haigh *BSc (Pharm), BSc (Hons) (Rhodes), PhD (UCT), MRPharmS, MPS(SA)*
H Parolis *PhD (Rhodes), MRPharmS, MPS(SA), FRSSAF*

Emeritus Associate Professors

BJ Wilson *MSc (Sask), PhD (Purdue)*
WT Futter *BCom, MCom (Rhodes), ACIS*
R Dowse *BPharm, PhD (Rhodes), MPS(SA)*

Clinical Fellows

M Bodenstien *BPharm (NMU), MPharm (NWU)*
GPG Boon *MBChB (UCT), FCP(SA)(Paed)*
L Graham *BSc (Psychology), BVM BVS (University of Sussex)*
GS Kalyatanda *MBBS (JSS Medical College)*
S Meintjes *BPharm (UWC), BTech, MBA (PE Tech)*
AG Parrish *MBChB, MMed (UCT), MMedSc (Newcastle), FCP(SA)*
S Singh *BPharm, PharmD (Rhodes)*
V Henge-Daweti *BPharm, PharmD (Rhodes), MSc (Med Pharmacy) (UL), MA Welfare Public Health Management (NMU)*

Support Staff

Manager

NG Borland

Technical Staff

A Zuma, S Ngxingo, T Fleck, L Hempe, X Rasana

Administrative Staff

L Emslie, T Kent, S Patrick

reports from divisions



Division of Pharmacology

By Professor Mamza Mothibe.

Head of Division: Professor Mamza Mothibe

The Division of Pharmacology welcomed the dawn of the year 2021 with renewed hope for face-to-face teaching and interaction with students; however COVID-19 restrictions remained in place in the 1st term. This provided an opportunity to strengthen the teaching and learning (T&L) with improved online teaching activities and assessments. Through the university's funding, the Division acquired the LabSims library of Biosciences (<https://learningscience.co.uk/>), an online platform for interactive practicals simulations, to complement the practical component of our 2nd year (Anatomy & Physiology), 3rd and 4th year (Pharmacology) courses. Staff attended various workshops on RUCConnected online assessments hosted by EdTech throughout the year, enhancing their knowledge and skills for online T&L. The T&L for Pathophysiology & Pathology (part of PC250) reverted to the Division, which meant the Pharmacology Division was responsible for six courses across the 4 years of the BPharm program, involving more than 700 students in total. Teaching the course from the Division allowed important alignment of the content, both vertically and horizontally within the BPharm curriculum.

With the continued quest for improved curriculum and content delivery, staff members enrolled in various courses, modules and workshops such as the "Blooms Taxonomy workshop" as well as CPD courses, throughout 2021 and 2022. Some included the following:

- Ms Tanusha Dukhan attended the workshops- "Decolonise the classroom", "Conflict resolution", and "Human research and ethics".
- Dr Ntethelelo Sibiya successfully completed the Postgraduate Diploma in Higher Education (pgDipHE, RU).
- Dr Pedzisai Makoni successfully completed the CATALyst course.

The Division was adequately prepared for the highly anticipated SAPC accreditation and monitoring visit of 2021, after having reviewed the previous report (2017) and addressing the recommendations thereof. The visit went smoothly as well as the in-person engagement

with the delegation, particularly the subject matter expert. Their recommendations regarding continuous assessments were considered and after revision, were implemented in 2022.

Great progress was made by the Division in enhancing the knowledge and skills in clinical pharmacy and clinical pharmacology experience for the program. In 2021, in partnership with Cecilia-Makiwane Hospital and Frere Hospital, 181 final-year BPharm students were exposed to the tertiary hospital pharmacy environment for a period of two days. The planning and implementation of the programme was a joint initiative between the Pharmacotherapy Lecturer, Ms Lucie Allan and the Cecilia-Makiwane Hospital Pharmacy Manager, Dr Vatiswa Henge-Daweti, a Rhodes University Clinical Fellow, and also formed part of the Work-based learning experience for the BPharm program. All students were afforded the opportunity to spend a day at each hospital. The students expressed their appreciation for the experience and their wish for a longer stay to learn more.

In line with the feedback received from the students in 2021, and as an identified need for the BPharm program, all 3rd year pharmacology students were exposed to clinical rotations in Fort England Hospital (Psychiatry Hospital) from the second term of 2022. The clinical site visits were conducted every Monday morning, and the students compiled portfolios of evidence to be incorporated into their 4th year term 1 continuous assessments. This activity was facilitated and coordinated by Dr Pedzi Makoni in liaison with the Pharmacy Manager, Ms S. Willows. In the same vein, the fourth-year clinical site visits in 2022 were extended to be a week long. These clinical experiences were supported through the Clinical Training Grant of DHET. Dr Vatiswa Henge-Daweti who also serves as the Eastern Cape (EC) pharmacovigilance Champion, was invited in 2022 as a guest lecturer and made a presentation on Introduction to Pharmacovigilance and the EC context, to the third-year pharmacology class. The students expressed their gratitude for the presentation as it exposed another area

with opportunity for practice as a pharmacist, associated with the knowledge in pharmacology.

Research activities were conducted in 2021 and 2022, including supervision of both undergraduate and postgraduate research by staff in the Division, for qualitative as well as laboratory-based research projects. Staff were able to have a few articles published in scientific, peer reviewed and DHET accredited journals. Ms Dukhan (in 2021) and Dr Sibiya (in 2022) served as the Faculty's postgraduate liaison persons, organising and chairing regular seminar presentations of the Faculty's postgraduate students. A successful virtual PG conference for the Faculty was held in 2021 with the participation of staff and PG students in the Division. There was also good participation with presentations by both staff and postgraduate students at the APSSA conference in 2022 hosted by the Rhodes University Faculty of Pharmacy. Other conferences attended with presentations included the following:

- The Annual conference of the South African Society of Clinical Pharmacy (SASOCP) 2021 by Ms Allan;
- The LCT 3.5 International Conference by Ms Dukhan, the 54th and 55th Annual Conferences of the South African Society for Basic and Clinical Pharmacology (SASBCP);
- The All African Congress of Basic and Clinical Pharmacology (ACP2021) by Prof Mothibe;
- The 2nd Annual African Traditional and Natural Product Medicine Conference (2022) by Prof Mothibe;
- Prof Mothibe was one of the invited speakers at the 55th SASBCP conference on pharmacology teaching and had a plenary presentation titled: "State of wellness" of pharmacological teaching: Reflections from Rhodes University".



Professor Mothibe presenting at the ATNPM Conference hosted by University of Limpopo, 2022.

With the refurbishment of the Pharmacy Building and the laboratories, we gladly anticipate our new tissue culture laboratory, which will expand our research and hence on our research output. The relocation of staff across the university has resulted in staff being located in offices in separate buildings, an arrangement which will be in place for next two years at least.

Dr Harold Walsh went on sabbatical in January 2022, and a new staff member, Mr Frank Ssengooba joined the Division as his replacement for the second semester. Ms Amanda Zuma went on maternity leave and Dr Michaelone Vaaltyn joined the Division as her replacement, albeit briefly.

The Division of Pharmacology is looking forward to a period of growth in the next few years, within the refurbished Pharmacy Building, new laboratories and more human and technical resources that will enable opportunities for expanded research and community engagement. We welcome and appreciate the support from the Dean's office and the university for this vision.

The Division congratulates and celebrates with Dr Ntethelelo Sibiya on receiving the 2022 Vice-Chancellor's Distinguished Teaching Award in the category of ten or fewer years' experience. This is a substantial acknowledgement from peers at Rhodes University of his scholarship in this area of academic endeavour. We are delighted that his hard work and dedication have been recognised in this way.



The 4th year students on arrival at the hospital for their pharmacotherapy hospital visits in 2021



Dr Makoni at Fort England Hospital with the first group of 3rd year pharmacy students attending their clinical rotation in 2022

Division of Pharmaceutics

By Mrs Natalie Paterson

Head of Division: Mrs Natalie Paterson

The chaos of 2020 due to the emergence of the COVID-19 pandemic was not over as we started 2021. It was only towards the end of June 2022 that we could literally breathe a sigh of relief as the face-mask mandate and the other last few COVID-19 restrictions were lifted. Thankfully, by the end of 2022 things seem back to normal despite the constant presence of the virus.

Looking back, the impact of capacity limitations, rules about social distancing and limited on-campus activities, especially in 2021, posed significant challenges to our academic program. Like the rest of the Faculty, the Pharmaceutics Division had to work creatively to find ways to overcome these challenges so that the curriculum could be delivered under these restrictions.

Notable events in the Division over 2021 and 2022 included new staff members, Professor Walker's Research and Community Engagement awards, a new research instrument, the temporary relocation of the BRG lab and an exciting laboratory refurbishment project on the way.

Teaching under COVID-19 restrictions

At the start of 2021 we still had to finish the practicals for students who were not able to return to campus during 2020. This took place in early March 2021 and (finally!) all our students had completed the required Pharmaceutics practicals and practical exams. It was a huge relief and satisfying that all our efforts had paid off.

For the 2021 academic year students returned to campus which meant that practicals could be performed. However, the laboratories could only be used at 50% capacity so multiple repeats of the practicals had to take place. All students had to wear face masks, plastic face shields, sanitise their hands and have their temperature taken before entering the laboratory – quite a sight thinking back!

Lecture venue capacity was also limited due to the COVID-19 restrictions, so a hybrid-model was used, with some in-person and some online lectures. In certain venues lecturers had to contend with delivering in-person and online lectures simultaneously.

Semester one exams were conducted online, except for the fourth year students who sat for the Pharmaceutics 4 exam in-person. Thankfully by the end of Semester two things had changed to allow all students write their November exams in-person.

Moving into 2022 the loosening of restrictions meant we could lecture, perform practicals and write tests and exams in person. When the mask mandate was finally lifted in the middle of the year we finally felt like things were, or at least looked, back to normal. What a wild ride it was!

Pharmaceutics staff

Over the last few years, the Pharmaceutics Division has had several staffing changes. At the start of 2021 Dr Pedzi Makoni made an internal move from the Pharmaceutics Division to the Pharmacology Division. His contribution during the time he was part of Pharmaceutics is greatly appreciated and his input into the Pharmaceutics program is certainly missed, however, we are glad to still have him in the Faculty! In June 2021 Dr Bwalya Witika joined the Pharmaceutics Division on a short-term contract. Dr Witika's assistance for the four months he was here was a great help to the Division and allowed the program to be delivered effectively.

At the start of 2022 the Pharmaceutics Division was delighted to welcome two new academic members to join Prof Rod Walker, Prof Sandile Khamanga and Mrs Natalie Paterson. Mr Greg Purcell was appointed as a permanent Pharmaceutics lecturer



Mr Greg Purcell, Lecturer



Mrs Unami Sibanda,
nGAP candidate

and Mrs Unami Sibanda joined the Division as part of the New Generation of Academics (nGAP) program.

Mr Purcell completed his B.Pharm and M.Pharm degrees at Nelson Mandela Bay University. After his academic internship, he took up a community service post Graaff-Reinet. Following registration as a pharmacist he worked in clinical trial research, first in Gqeberha and later in Dublin, Ireland. Missing sunny South Africa, Mr Purcell and his wife returned to the Eastern Cape at the end of 2021 and he took up the Pharmaceutics post in March 2022. Mr Purcell is working on a PhD and looking forward to further his career in academia.

Mrs Sibanda completed her B.Pharm degree at Sefako Makgatho Health Sciences University (SMU). Following her undergraduate degree, she obtained a Master of Pharmacy in Radiopharmacy degree, also from SMU. Mrs Sibanda performed her community service year between two sites, Mthatha Pharmaceutical Depot and All Saints Hospital. Once registered as a pharmacist she took up a post at Mafikeng Provincial Hospital. Mrs Sibanda was accepted for the nGAP program at Rhodes University in the Division of Pharmaceutics and started the program in January 2022. The nGAP is a six-year program split into a three-year development phase followed by a second three-year induction or early career phase. Mrs Sibanda is working on her PhD and is also doing some teaching in the Division.

Graduation 2022

The Division was extremely proud to congratulate Prof Rod Walker on receiving both the Vice-Chancellor's Distinguished Research Award and the Vice-Chancellor's Distinguished Community Engagement Award at the April 2022 graduation ceremony. Receiving both awards, particularly in the same year is extremely rare and it is an honour for the Faculty and Division to have a member of such calibre.

The Community Engagement Award was presented to Prof Walker for the sanitiser project that he set up in one of the laboratories, where more than 15 000 litres of hand sanitiser were manufactured. The hand sanitiser was distributed to hospitals, clinics, retirement homes and others at no cost. As the pandemic continued, the project grew to include elements of knowledge transfer, service-learning, and a wide reach to diverse communities. Several community partners donated either funds, materials (such as ethanol),

expertise, or time to assist the project.

Colleagues who nominated Prof Walker for the Research Award colleagues motivated that for “over more than three decades Prof Walker has made a difference at our University, he has exemplified the mission of the University, and has positively impacted the people of our province and country... he has a high research output and in the time that he has been in the employ of Rhodes University he has published one hundred papers in international peer reviewed journals, produced eleven book chapters, and sixty-three other articles, letters, and special reports. He has attended more than eighty national and international conferences with seven as plenary speaker. Professor Walker is either first or senior author on most of these papers, attesting to the contribution that he has made to these scholarly works.” Prof Walker has supervised 63 MSc and PhD students, including the current Dean.

These awards were truly well deserved, and the Pharmaceutics Division was delighted to congratulate Professor Walker for his massive contribution to Rhodes University, the Faculty and discipline of Pharmaceutics.

Research

An exciting new development in Pharmaceutics was the arrival of the electronic tongue that Prof Khamanga acquired through the National Research Foundation (NRF) National Equipment Programme. The analytical instrument contains an array of chemical sensors capable of characterizing complex liquid samples. Traditionally, it was used to analyse food products, water samples and taste masking technologies for pharmaceuticals. In principle, their applications are almost limitless.



The electronic tongue set up and ready to go.



Professor Walker received medals for Vice Chancellor's Distinguished Research Award and Vice Chancellor's Distinguished Community Engagement Award at the April 2022 Graduation Ceremony
Image from Herald LIVE: <https://www.heraldlive.co.za/news/2022-04-07-rhodes-professor-receives-award-for-producing-hand-sanitiser>.



A pharmacist from Settlers hospital, Shali Chen, receives bulk sanitiser manufactured by Industrial Pharmacy Elective students.

The Pharmaceuticals Division is very proud of the MSc and PhD students who graduated in 2021 and 2022. There were six MSc (Pharmacy) in Pharmaceuticals and two PhD degrees awarded in 2021 and four MSc (Pharmacy) in Pharmaceuticals degrees awarded in 2022. We congratulate these students and wish them great success in the future!

It has been encouraging to see the number of alumni who have received MSc or PhD degrees in Pharmaceuticals from Rhodes University take up academic positions, locally and internationally, as well as in leadership positions within the pharmaceutical industry. We have alumni working at Aspen, Ascendis Health, L'Oreal as well as the University of the Western Cape and Sefako Makgatho Health Sciences University.

Biopharmaceutics Research Group (BRG) laboratory.

The most significant development in Pharmaceuticals research at Rhodes is the temporary relocation of the BRG research laboratory due to the building refurbishment. As this laboratory is placed in the North wing of the building it will be demolished

and, in its place, a new Pharmaceutical Chemistry laboratory will be built. A new space for the BRG will be created in phase two of the building project when the South wing is refurbished. It is bitter sweet to think of the BRG moving from the second/third floor where it has been housed for more than 30 years and where so many students have spent many hours during their post graduate degrees.

The laboratory will be relocated to a laboratory space in the Physics Department. A fair amount of work is needed to make the laboratory fit for purpose, but efforts are underway, and it should be possible to start moving the BRG into the space in early 2023.

It cannot be expressed strongly enough the magnitude of this move. Clearing out a laboratory after so many years has been an enormous task for Prof Walker. Not only chemicals, API, glassware and equipment but the relocation of expensive and sensitive instruments has been a mammoth undertaking. Setting it up in the new space will also not be easy. We wish the group all the best in getting “back on their feet” in their new “home”.



HPLCs in the BRG packed up and ready to move

Electives

The **Industrial Pharmacy elective** first offered in 2020 by Mrs Natalie Paterson and Dr Pedzi Makoni was offered again in 2021 and 2022. In both years, students assisted Prof Walker in manufacturing hand sanitiser as part of the practical component. The 2022 cohort came in on Women's Day (09 August 2022) to manufacture hand sanitiser for Settlers Hospital. The staff at the hospital had asked for our help as surgical soap

was out of stock and only limited sanitiser had been delivered. This created a risk on infection during surgery. It was very meaningful to help to local community and the students had hands on experience completing Batch Manufacturing Record and learning about other manufacturing processes.

In both 2021 and 2022, the course ended off with a session of guest speakers. In 2022 these



Laboratory space at Physics being renovated to receive the BRG



The industrial Pharmacy Elective students visit Fresenius Kabi manufacturing plant in Gqebera.

speakers included a pharmacist intern at Biovac who had done the elective in 2021. In 2022 we were also able to arrange a visit to Fresenius Kabi in Gqebera where the students got to see Sterile Pharmaceutical Products being manufactured.

Prof Khamanga also offered elective courses for final year students, the **Veterinary Pharmacy Elective** and the **Cosmetics Elective**. The Cosmetics Elective was introduced in 2022 and Prof Khamanga intends to continue growing this elective going forward as students have shown a lot of interest. The Veterinary Pharmacy Elective is also still running and Dr Mutero, the District Veterinarian, is still involved.

New laboratories on the way

In March 2022 we were informed that the refurbishment of the Chemistry and Pharmacy Building was finally going to happen. Refurbishment of the North wing of the building (where the laboratories are) was to start at the end of 2022 so we had to spring into action and start designing our new teaching laboratories. It was exciting but also daunting to be faced with a blank space and given the freedom to design it to best suit our needs. The design process was laborious with many design iterations, meetings and consideration given to every element. Now that it is done we are excited to see it come to life and even more excited to start teaching in a space specifically designed for our needs.

Looking forward...

The last two years, 2021 and 2022, have certainly been interesting for Pharmaceutics with never a dull moment! As we look to 2023 we know that it will come with its own set of challenges (delivering the practical program while our labs are under construction is certainly one of them!) but we are confident that we can face them as a Division. We will continue to strive to offer our students a high quality education in Pharmaceutics, the discipline we are passionate about.

Division of Pharmacy Practice

By members of the Pharmacy Practice Division

Head of Division: Sue Burton

The Pharmacy Practice Division has had an exciting couple of years. Like other divisions, we have adapted to online teaching and back to full-time classroom work, maintaining a blend between online and person-to-person contact. In 2021 the Division was staffed by Sue Burton, Farisai Chiwanza, Clarris Magadza, Gcobisa Ngodwane, Carmen Oltmann and Lynnette van Dyk. And we were ably assisted by our the Principle Technician Chief Laboratory Officer Amanda Zumalu. In 2022 our ranks were swelled by the addition of Monique Purcell Klitsie, appointed as the Work-Integrated Learning Co-Ordinator in the Faculty and Mzukisi Matyumza as a laboratory assistant on a contract basis.

Our experience of teaching through the pandemic resulted in a virtual poster presentation at the Lifelong Learning in Pharmacy conference in June 2021. If you are interested, more details of the presentation are available on Page 85 of the conference proceedings online at: <https://pharmacyeducation.fip.org/pharmacyeducation/article/view/1539/1185>.

The need to make changes during the pandemic and also to keep our programme current and relevant led to us introducing several new aspects into the Pharmacy Practice courses including MyDispense, a simulated dispensary programme, the use of MediBlist adherence packaging and greater training on

RXSolutions and Unisolve dispensing systems.

The appointment of Monique Purcell Klitsie has meant that we have already been able to expand our learning programme to include service-based learning – with the 2022 second-year students spending time in three primary healthcare clinics in Makhanda.

This programme will be extended even further in 2023, with our first-years paying visits to community pharmacies, the third-years going out to clinics and our fourth-years being part of a health outreach programme to more rural areas.

In 2023 we will be taking possession of a Mobile

Medicines Unit (paid for by the Clinical Training Grant) which will form an integral part of our rural outreach programme. It is envisaged that the unit will be used to do medication adherence packing, medicine utilisation reviews and counselling. It will also serve as a base for providing screening and monitoring services in the communities we visit. We are very grateful to the Department of Higher Education for the Clinical Training Grant which assists us in the clinical training of our students. The grant has also paid for an upgrade of some of the training facilities at Settlers Hospital, Settlers Day Hospital and Fort England Hospital in 2022, which will be benefit our students when they visit these facilities in the future.

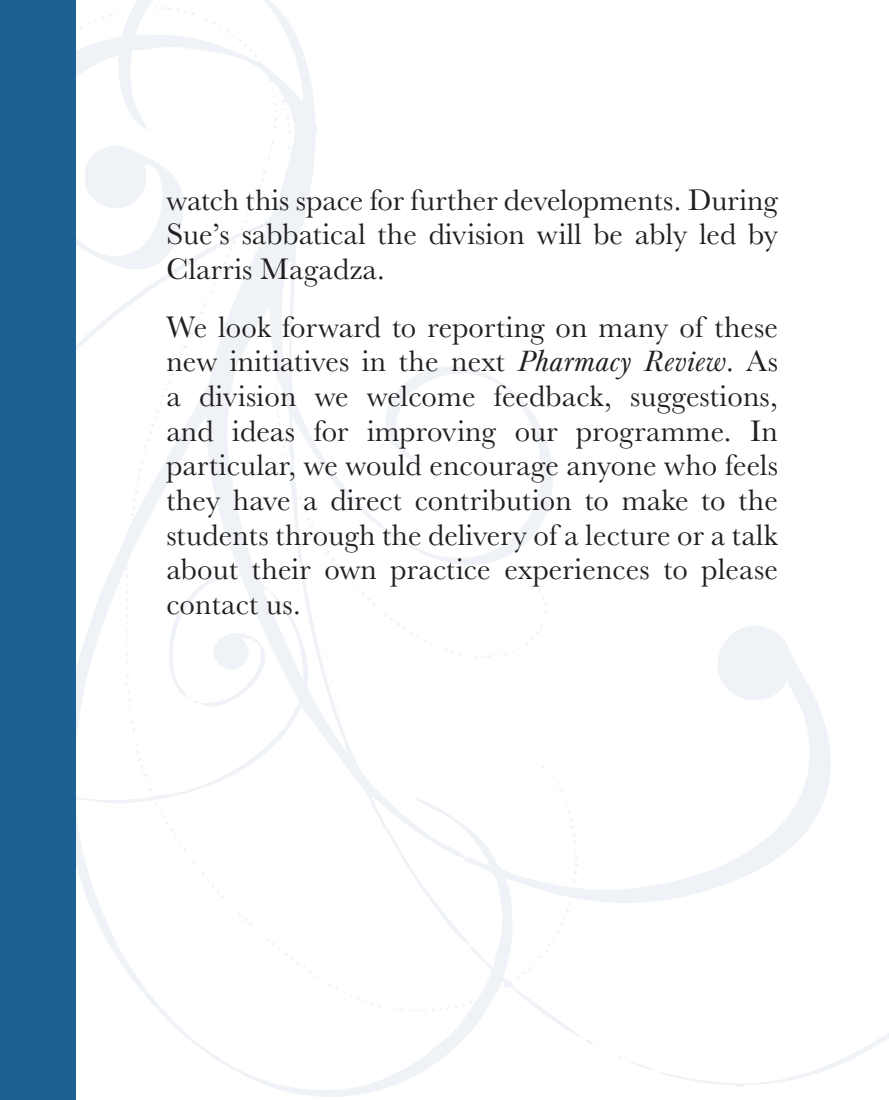
Over the past two years, Pharmacy Practice has introduced a new elective, Geriatric Pharmacy, and reintroduced a previously offered elective, Sports Pharmacy, into our offerings. The students have received both these electives well and expressed appreciation for them. The Sports Pharmacy elective features in the FIP publication *Sports pharmacy practice and education: A global overview* on pages 13 and 20 and as a case study on page 57. Well done, Carmen, for bringing this significant work to international prominence.

On the personal front ...

Carmen Oltmann was reappointed deputy dean of the Faculty and continues to very ably support Professor Khamanga in his role as dean and to serve the whole Faculty.

Our ranks have also swelled in other ways, with two of our team members giving birth. Amanda and Lelo have gave birth to a beautiful little girl, Milane, born on 22 August 2022, and Farisai and Lenny welcomed baby Olivia, born on 15 October 2022! We seem to keep things almost exclusively female in the Pharmacy Practice Division!

Sue Burton will be on academic leave (sabbatical) for the first half of 2023 to work on developing a part-time MPharm programme which is envisaged to incorporate various South African Pharmacy Council-accredited short learning programmes. The programme will mainly be aimed at practicing community pharmacists, so



watch this space for further developments. During Sue's sabbatical the division will be ably led by Clarris Magadza.

We look forward to reporting on many of these new initiatives in the next *Pharmacy Review*. As a division we welcome feedback, suggestions, and ideas for improving our programme. In particular, we would encourage anyone who feels they have a direct contribution to make to the students through the delivery of a lecture or a talk about their own practice experiences to please contact us.

Division of Pharmaceutical Chemistry

By Mrs Natalie Paterson

Acting head of the Division: Mrs Natalie Paterson

At the start of 2021 our students returned to campus. Capacity considerations for lecture, practical and exam venues was a challenge, and we were still masked up, but it was great to be back in the classroom and interact with students again. Practicals could now take place in regular slots and we could slowly get back on track. By the end of 2022 we celebrate the normality to which we have returned.

Over 2020 and 2021 Prof Tandlich continued to offer the Disaster Management Elective to the final-year students. This elective could not have been more relevant in the context of the pandemic. Because of Prof Tandlich's interest and research in this field, he contributed to and was a guest editor in the special issue 'Disaster Response and Preparedness in South Africa during the COVID-19 Epidemic' in *Sustainability*.

However fate would not let us get too comfortable and, before we could catch our breath, it seemed the building refurbishment project was in full swing. A wonderful large space for a new Pharmaceutical Chemistry undergraduate laboratory was identified and a design for a state-of-the-art laboratory that will be fit-for-purpose was drawn up. The academics and technical staff in the Division worked hard on multiple designs and configurations for the space. Special mention must be made of Dr Goosen who worked passionately on detailed designs of the bespoke lockers, fume hoods and benches.

Dr Morake from the University of Cape Town joined the Division from July to December 2022 as Professor Khanye's leave replacement while he was on sabbatical. It was a pleasure to have Dr Morake in the Division and we wish him the best with whatever lies ahead. Prof Khanye had a productive sabbatical which resulted in at least seven publications, with more in the works. We must also congratulate Prof Khanye for being placed on the list of Rhodes University Top 30

Researchers in the *2021 Annual Research Report*.

The Disaster Management and Ethics Research Group (DMERG) led by Prof Tandlich continues to grow. The group hosted Ms Robyn J. Bayne, from Stenden South Africa. Robyn was awarded a scholarship from the South African chapter of the International Emergency Management Society and has worked on the emergency and disaster risk management during the drought in the Sarah Baartman District.

Emma Chapman, who is currently completing her MSc, was the first young Disaster Risk Management Practitioner, certified in International Emergency Management through the TQAC certification of the International Emergency Management Society.

Another MSc student in the group, Kelly Maguire, was awarded third prize for the best student presentation at the 29th Annual Conference of the International Emergency Management Society. This event was held as a hybrid conference and was hosted by Kennesaw State University in Atlanta Georgia, USA.

DMERG also formalised cooperation with the Institute of Disaster Management, National University of Public Service in Budapest, Hungary and University of Žilina, Slovakia. This has resulted in several scientific publications.

The Pharmaceutical Chemistry Division is now gearing up for 2023. There is an intention to expand the number of staff in the division which will add capacity to run the program. This year will surely come with its own challenges but, without doubt, its own successes. While the building project will be disruptive and we will be displaced from our laboratory, research and office spaces, we are excited to be part of this exceptional project and the legacy it will leave for those who follow us.



faculty news

Pharmacy Faculty COVID-19 vaccination site

Report submitted by Mrs Natalie Paterson

In early 2021, the first COVID-19 vaccines were made available in South Africa. The vaccines were initially rolled out to health care workers at specific sites under the Sisonke Phase 3b clinical trial. Pharmacy students and staff registered with the South African Pharmacy Council (SAPC) were eligible for this study and many received their vaccination through this program.

By the middle of the year, when the Sisonke study was completed, the second phase of the National Rollout Plan was implemented. This phase made vaccines available to all remaining health care workers and those over 60 years old. Over time the eligible age groups were expanded.

In line with the National Department of Health's (NDoH) mandate to vaccinate as many eligible people as quickly as possible, the Faculty of Pharmacy started vaccinating all unvaccinated qualifying students and staff against COVID-19 in July 2021 at an in-house vaccination site.

Setting up the site was co-ordinated by Mrs Natalie Paterson and the vaccinations were administered by registered nurses, Sr Emily Repinz from the Biopharmaceutics Research Institute (BRI) and Sr Lynnette Van Dyk. Pharmacy staff and postgraduate students assisted with registrations and administration at the site. The Pharmacy Faculty worked closely with the Department

of Health District Manager, Mr Muhammed Docrat, and the pharmacists at Settlers Hospital.

Final-year students were prioritised to be vaccinated as being vaccinated was a prerequisite to participate in the Pharmacotherapy course, which also involved visits to multiple hospitals. After the fourth-year students had been vaccinated, the second-year and third-year cohorts of students were vaccinated to protect them as they performed their Work Based Learning (WBL) activities. Extra doses were made available to eligible community members. Overall, between 1 and 9 July 2021 the faculty site administered a total of 443 vaccines.

As the vaccine administered at the site was the Pfizer (Comirnaty®) vaccine, a follow-up booster was required six weeks later. The booster dose was also provided at the faculty site during 18 to 20 August 2021 to all those initially vaccinated at the site. First jabs were also given to the first-year students (who had now registered with the SAPC) during this period. The booster doses were administered to the first-year students between 6 to 8 October 2021.

We were excited to be able to vaccinate our students and community members at our in-house site as it meant we could relieve some pressure on local Department of Health sites which were receiving high numbers of patients.



Sr Lynnette Van Dyk talks through the pre-vaccination informed consent form with a fourth-year pharmacy student



Postgraduate student, Sam Okeyo, assists with registrations on the Electronic Vaccination Data System (EVDS) at the vaccination site.

APSSA Annual Conference

By Prof Sandile Khamanga, conference convener

The Academy of Pharmaceutical Sciences (APSSA) held their 41st annual conference and 43rd Annual General Meeting at Rhodes University in Makhanda (formerly Grahamstown) on 21–23 August 2022. The theme of the conference was ‘Back to the Future’, in reference to the return to in-person conferences and the face-to-face interactions with colleagues that so often sparks new ideas and collaborations. Since its inception in 1978, the APSSA conference has been well attended by pharmacists, and other colleagues, from the academic and industrial sectors. Unfortunately, due to the COVID-19 pandemic the annual conference was postponed in 2020 and 2021 as the restrictions did not allow for the social interaction vital to the conference. So it was with great excitement that the Rhodes University Faculty of Pharmacy took up the challenge to host the first in-person conference since 2019.

The conference commenced on Sunday 21 August with a function at which the Rhodes University DVC, Professor Monnapula-Mapesela, welcomed all to Rhodes University and encouraged delegates to challenge the status quo in their area of research. The Dean of Pharmacy at Rhodes University, Professor Sandile Khamanga added his welcome and expressed his delight at the fact that there were many young scientists attending this conference for the first time. A variety of presentations from academic pharmacists and postgraduates were delivered over the two following days. Their talks, and the interactive Q&A sessions, gave valuable insight into the latest academic research taking place in Pharmacy. Overall, the programme was very successful with thirteen posters, sixteen Young Scientist presentations and twenty-three podium presentations.

The academic proceedings commenced with a plenary lecture delivered by Professor Piotr Lulinski, Deputy Dean of the Faculty of Pharmacy at the Medical University of Warsaw. He eloquently espoused the potential role of molecularly imprinted polymers as novel drug delivery technologies in his well-received presentation.

Dr Ralph Tettey-Amlalo delivered an invited

presentation in which he shared the journey of producing a complementary medicine using indigenous natural sources, whilst complying with stringent regulatory hurdles to ensure standardisation from seed to product was achieved. Encouragingly, he suggested this was an opportunity for the development of future products.

Professor Sarel Malan had an interesting and enlightening presentation on INN stems for naming of compounds. He also shared several online resources that are available from the WHO for information and suggested their use in teaching and learning of pharmacology and clinical pharmacy may enhance learning outcomes.

Professor Rod Walker delivered a presentation in which he shared the story of the hand sanitiser production project that was undertaken during the COVID-19 pandemic project and for which he received the Distinguished Vice-Chancellor’s Community Engagement Award. Professor Walker challenged pharmacists in the delegation to us their professional expertise and skills in a forward-thinking manner.

The Young Scientists component of the conference allowed Young Scientist delegates to give ten-minute presentations on their work to a panel of judges. This format required projects to be concisely and clearly presented, which can be considered a challenging task. However, it was rewarding for the presenters to be able to share their work both with their peers and mature researchers. The standard of submitted abstracts and posters and the presentations was high. Sandrine Tanga (UWC) and Maxine Grose (Wits) were well deserving of the Young Scientist prizes.

Exhibitors displayed their promotional materials and introduced academics to their newest products and services, finding the conference platform an excellent opportunity to reach the largest assembling of participants from the pharmacy academic field.

As in the past, the social programme permitted interaction with exhibitors and colleagues at teas, meals and between sessions. The pub quiz evening and gala dinner were particularly enjoyed

by delegates. During the gala dinner, the Young Scientist, Best Publication, Best Poster, Best Oral Presentation and Teacher of the Year awards were presented.

The all-inclusive registration fee, supplemented by generous sponsorship support, allowed delegates to be accommodated in student residences and have all local transport, meals and social events covered. The overall cost per person was affordable and encouraged universities to send as many delegates as possible.

Delegates shared extremely positive and encouraging feedback on the conference experience. One of the highlights expressed was the participation of almost all universities that offer Pharmacy. Networking opportunities were also a highlight for many staff and students who were attending the conference for the first time.

The conference also hosted the 43rd AGM of the Academy, which had been held in virtual format

in 2020 and 2021. We congratulate the following members who have been elected to serve on the 2022 – 2024 Executive Committee:

- Prof Yahya Choonara (Wits)
- Prof Sandile Khamanga (Rhodes)
- Dr NomaChina Kubashe (NMU)
- Prof Lesetja Letsoane (NWU)
- Ms Lorraine Thom (SMU)
- Dr Ilze Vermaak (TUT)

Participating in the 41st annual conference was exciting, motivational, and made all of us enthusiastic about next year's APSSA conference which will be hosted by UKZN. It also made us appreciate the value of the in-person conference experience and how this format is an invaluable tool for networking, learning, and innovation.

We thank everyone for participating and supporting the conference to make it the great success that it was.



Prof Khamanga addresses the conference



Dr Ralph Tettey-Amlalo was invited to present at the APSSA conference. Ralph is a Rhodes alumnus and graduated with a PhD in Biopharmaceutics in 2008.

Conference Awards

Aspen Pharmacare Young Scientist Winner

– Laboratory Sciences

Sandrine Tanga

University of the Western Cape

Design of a thermoresponsive hydrogel for enhanced intratumoral permeation of a model drug in oral squamous cell carcinoma biosuture

Aspen Pharmacare Young Scientist Winner

– Practice

Maxine Grose

University of the Witwatersrand

Diabetic foot ulcers: Is it time to readdress the standard treatment guidelines

Distinguished Teacher of the Year

Ané Orchards

University of the Witwatersrand

Publication Awards

Pharmaceutical Chemistry

Ayodeji Egunlusi

University of the Western Cape

Open and rearranged norbornane derived polycyclic cage molecules as potential neuroprotective agents through attenuation of MPP^b- and calcium overload-induced excitotoxicity in neuroblastoma SH-SY5Y cells

Pharmaceutics

Yahya Choonara

University of the Witwatersrand

Development of a fluid-absorptive alginate-chitosan bioplatfrom for potential application as a wound dressing

Pharmacology

Gill Enslin

Tshwane University of Technology

Anti-seizure activity of African medicinal plants: The identification of bioactive alkaloids from the stem bark of *Rauwolfia caffra* using an in vivo zebrafish model

Pharmacy Practice

Sandy van Vuuren

University of the Western Cape

Laboratory-based study of novel antimicrobial cold spray coatings to combat surface microbial contamination

Oral presentation

Winner: Stephanie Leigh de Rapper

University of the Witwatersrand

Runner-up: Richard Beteck

(North-West University)

Poster award

Winner: Keagile Lepule

Tshwane University of Technology

Runner-up: Weiyang Chen

Tshwane University of Technology

Sponsors

The APSSA would like to thank all the sponsors for their generous contributions:

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Separations



Prof Sandile Khamanga (Dean), Dr Ralph Tettey-Amlalo (alumnus); Prof Santy Daya (former Dean and Faculty staff member), Prof Beukes (former Faculty staff member), Mrs Clarris Magadza (Pharmacy Practice Lecturer).

Community Engagement

By Ms Farisai Chiwanza

On 9 February 2022, the St Andrew's Interact Club invited a few colleagues from the Pharmacy Faculty to give a brief presentation at Nombulelo High School in Makhanda. This presentation was given as part of the official handover of sanitary towels by the St Andrew's College Interact Club which had gathered funds to purchase a year supply of sanitary towels for each matric girl at Nombulelo. The presentation was geared at the school's matric girls, and it included topics such as the menstrual cycle, with a focus on menstruation, products used and menstrual hygiene. It was a true privilege to be given the opportunity to give this presentation. The students asked a number of questions and the pharmacists provided answers to the best of their abilities.



Professor Rod Walker is awarded the Vice-Chancellor's Distinguished Award for Community Engagement.

Professor Rod Walker was awarded the 2021 Vice-Chancellor's Distinguished Award for Community Engagement. The award to Prof Walker was made at the 2022 graduation ceremony in recognition of his outstanding work at producing and distributing hand sanitiser to healthcare workers and the most vulnerable members of society. Prof Walker's work in community engagement is truly distinguished. Soon after the COVID-19 epidemic hit, Prof Walker and his team responded fast and effectively to the crisis by putting up a small-scale hand sanitiser manufacturing unit in one of the Faculty of Pharmacy's laboratories.

Professor Walker gave a public lecture on the community-engaged initiative on Tuesday 10 May 2022. His work reflected how reciprocal partnerships, teaching and learning, and research endeavours can come together to create a project that greatly benefits the community.

Congratulations on the great work Prof Walker.

Continuous Professional Development (CPD) evening

On Tuesday 26 April 2022, the Faculty hosted a CPD evening for pharmacists in Makhanda and surrounds. The CPD evening was held at the Albany Club in High Street and a total of twenty-two pharmacists were in attendance. The guest speaker was Dr Andy Gray who provided a very interesting talk entitled *In-patient and out-patient treatment of COVID-19*. Hosting this CPD evening helped to develop a reciprocal relationship between the pharmacists in the Faculty and the community by offering a platform where both groups could share knowledge and skills on the topic of COVID-19, its treatment and ways to mitigate challenges the disease presents to the profession.

Community-based Service-learning Course

The RUCE offers a number of accredited short courses for staff members. Among the courses offered this year was a short course on service learning, and one on engaged research. These courses are offered twice a year.

Earlier this year one of our colleagues from the Faculty of Pharmacy, Mrs Monique Purcell, was one of nine students who enrolled for the first semester online Community-based Service-learning course. This accredited five-week course ran from 11 April to 13 May and lecturers were given theoretical and practical tools to design, reimagine and refine a community-based service-learning course. We look forward to the application of the invaluable knowledge Mrs Purcell has gained in creating a space where both learning and service can coexist in mutually beneficial and transformative ways.

Talk on sanitiser project

Professor Walker was invited to give a talk on the community-engaged initiative and sanitiser project at the APSSA annual conference which was held at Rhodes University from 21–23 August 2022.

Sanitiser donation

Professor Walker and his students continued outstanding work producing and distributing hand sanitiser to health care facilities around the community. The Industrial Pharmacy Elective group of students he teaches made 300L of sanitiser and donated it to Settlers Hospital. His work continues to show how reciprocal

partnerships, teaching and learning and research endeavours can come together to create a project that greatly benefits the community.

Transnet Phelophepa Health Care Train

The Transnet Phelophepa Health Train is a health-care train that goes to 34 rural areas in South Africa per year providing primary health care. Every year a few pharmacy students get the opportunity to assist in the train's pharmacy. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the train could not host our students for the past two years, however this year, twenty of our final-year and postgraduate pharmacy students were invited to assist on the train. Rhodes University pharmacy students were allocated weekly slots on the train spanning from May to July 2022. The students were stationed in towns in the Free State, Northern Cape and Western Cape provinces. In addition to assisting in the dispensary, our students were involved in various health promotion activities on the train. The opportunity to work on the Transnet Phelophepa Health Train not only presented a great learning experience for our students who benefited from the many tasks and activities that they had to complete, but it also benefited the community they assisted through the services the pharmacy is able to offer.



Primary Health Care Service Learning Course

In August 2022 the Faculty of Pharmacy began to implement a service-learning programme within their second-year BPharm pharmacy practice module. In this year of study, students learn the fundamentals of dispensing, stock control and primary health care clinics. The students' service goals are to assist the dispensing staff with

dispensing, stock control and general housekeeping within the dispensary and dispensary storerooms. The programme consists of a preparation classroom session, visits to one of the three local primary health care clinics in Makhanda, student group reflections after the clinic visit and an individual reflection. The three primary health care clinics within Makhanda are Joza clinic, Middle Terrace clinic and Anglo-African clinic.

Once the students returned to campus, a group reflection was facilitated as students were not able to experience all three clinics, and an individual reflection was required to be submitted a week later. So far the programme has proven to be a success and dispensary staff have expressed their gratitude for the extra assistance.

Career Guidance Expo

Ms Unami Sibanda, participated in a career guidance expo at Ngqeleni Senior Secondary School on 12 August 2022. The school is located in a rural location 30 kilometres from Mthatha (Ngqeleni). Students in grade 11 and grade 12 from Ngqeleni SSS and neighboring secondary schools attended the career counselling fair. Other speakers, such as those representing financial institutions, environmentalists, tourism, and town planners, were also present. Students expressed a strong interest in pharmacy and had many questions, many of which were regarding the prerequisites. Other students also wanted to know about other Rhodes University courses that would be of interest. Ms Sibanda reported that it was truly a great initiative, and that the principal expressed his gratitude and remarked that this was a historic occasion for the school because they are often excluded from such events due to their location. The founder of the Inqanga Group (NPO) who was also present at the expo indicated interest in keeping in touch with Ngqeleni Senior Secondary

School and other schools from underserved rural areas for such initiatives in the future.

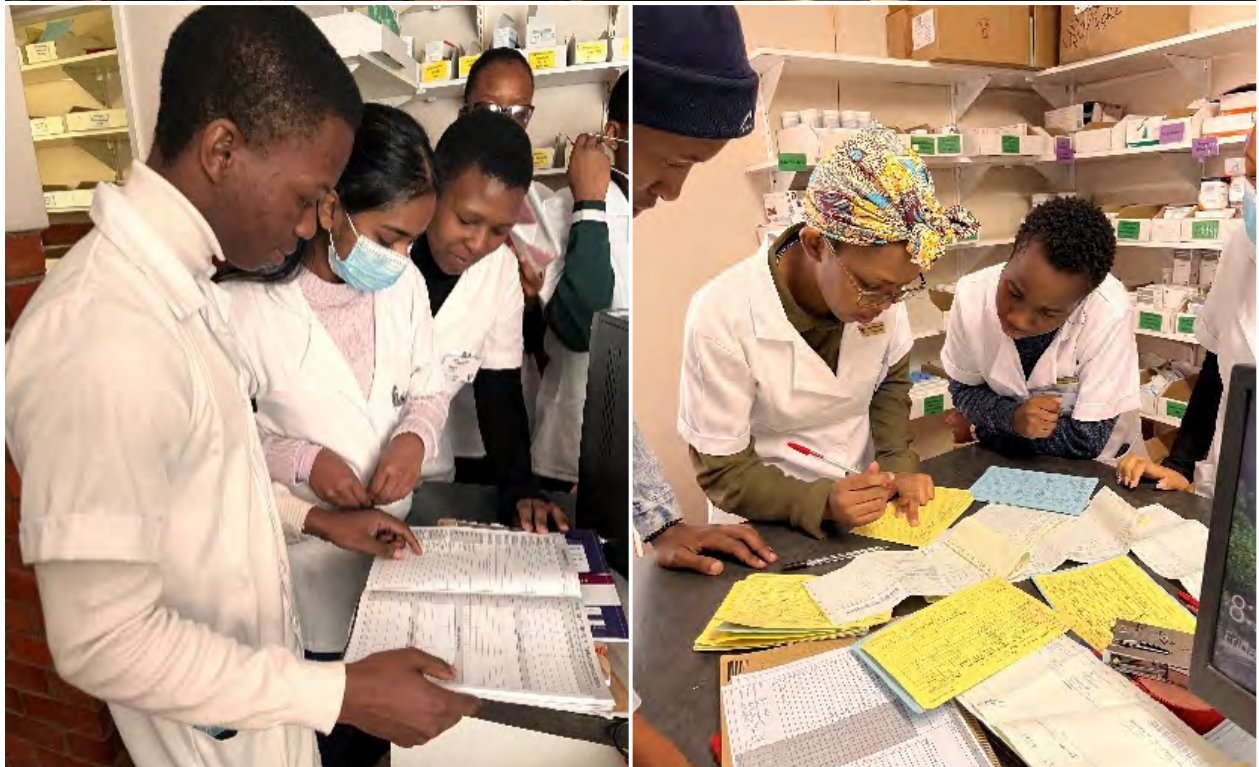
Eskom Expo

Ms Unami Sibanda participated in the Eskom Expo event on 6 August 2022 as a judge. Students from several schools in Makhanda presented their projects and Ms Sibanda was a member of the panel that judged projects in the subject of biomedical sciences for students in grades 8 to 12.

Makhanda Primary Healthcare Clinic stocktake assistance

In September 2022 the staff at Joza clinic requested help to prepare them for their quarterly stocktake. We had an overwhelming response from students who were willing to volunteer to help, but we could unfortunately only take ten students. Students worked at the Joza clinic over the weekend as it is bustling during the week. This allowed more room to work quickly and efficiently as the dispensary and dispensary storeroom are small in size. We assisted by updating bin cards, arranging and labelling stock boxes, and consolidating stock levels. The staff at Joza clinic were highly grateful for our assistance and the students appreciated the opportunity to learn how to prepare for a stocktake. The Faculty hopes to co-ordinate more opportunities for students to assist the clinics in preparing for their stocktakes, as it is a mutually beneficial partnership.





Students at Anglo-African Street Clinic

Guest Essay

Biopharmaceutics Research Institute: A pearl clouded with an uncertain prognosis

By Emeritus Professor Izzy Kanfer



The Biopharmaceutics Research Institute (BRI) was established in the Rhodes University Faculty of Pharmacy in 1987 as a result of successful negotiations initiated by Professor Izzy Kanfer and a leading South African Pharmaceutical Company and drug manufacturer, Lennon Laboratories Ltd, located in Port Elizabeth.

The Institute's staff and equipment were wholly funded by Lennon Laboratories whilst the University provided the necessary office, laboratory, and clinic space plus various utilities in the old Pharmacy Department building on the hill, as well as access to other university infrastructure such as library facilities, finance administration and human resource division support.

The main objective of the BRI was to develop a research and service facility to provide analytical and clinical procedures for the assessment of bioequivalence (BE) of generic medicinal products in accordance with international regulatory requirements and specifications at a time when such a service was relatively unique in South Africa and at the beginning of a new international epoch to bring to market generic products which would provide economic benefits and make medicines more affordable and more accessible to the wider public.

The BRI provided a dedicated BE study facility and service to Lennon Laboratories until 1994 after which it was "mothballed" following Professor Kanfer's relocation to Canada. During this interim period from 1995, a few clinical studies (aka feed & bleed) to assess BE of orally administered medicines were undertaken whilst the analytical section remained dormant, and all the analytical requirements were outsourced.

In 1999 following Professor Kanfer's return to Rhodes University as Head and Dean of Pharmacy, the clinic was refurbished and re-equipped and made compliant with Good Clinical

Practice (GCP) regulatory requirements. Since that time numerous pilot and pivotal studies were successfully completed on a "feed & bleed" basis whilst continuing to outsource the analytical components.

When Professor Kanfer retired as Director of the BRI, Dr Michael Skinner was appointed as the new director and the BRI was re-purposed as a Specialty Contract Research Organisation specifically focussing only on the assessment of BE and bioavailability/pharmacokinetic studies on topical corticosteroid drug products in accordance with international requirements and specifications. The institute continued to thrive under Dr Skinner's leadership where numerous BE studies on topical corticosteroid products were successfully completed on behalf of various international and local pharmaceutical companies. The Institute was successfully inspected and audited by a number of international regulatory authorities such as the USA's Food & Drug Administration (FDA), the World Health Organisation (WHO) and by the South African Health Products Regulatory Authority (SAHPRA) formerly known as the Medicines Control Council (MCC) during Dr. Skinner's reign, and became internationally acknowledged as a premier testing site for assessing the BE of topical corticosteroid products using the Vasoconstrictor Assay (VCA) in accordance with the internationally accepted FDA's guidance for such products. The FDA's VCA is accepted by health authorities in most global jurisdictions.

A full range of services for the clinical, statistical and report generation aspects of bioavailability/BE and pharmacokinetic studies using the FDA's VCA are undertaken according to GCP and standard operating procedures (SOP's). The BRI has since been providing safety and efficacy testing services to pharmaceutical manufacturing companies for topical corticosteroid products for national and international regulatory registration and market

approval and well as for formulation development purposes of such products. Topical corticosteroid products which have been successfully tested at the BRI have received marketing authorisation in South Africa, Europe, USA and Canada.

All studies are conducted in a clinic staffed by experienced investigators including study physicians, registered pharmacists, and quality control (QA) officers where the Executive Director has over forty years of experience with studies on topical corticosteroids. The BRI has a pool of well-trained professional nurses who assist in general clinical activities. Study protocols are submitted for review and ethical approval according to GCP principles and in accordance with the requirements of the Declaration of Helsinki regarding the use of human subjects in clinical trials.

Motivated and responsible healthy human volunteers are recruited from male and female members of the Rhodes University student body. The clinic is ideally situated on the Rhodes University campus and is within easy walking distance of study participants residing in university residences where over 50% of the student body reside on campus and others off-campus.

In 2016 Dr Skinner sadly passed away and although a successor was not appointed, the BRI continued to function and provide BE services to industry and support postgraduate students albeit operating under extremely challenging circumstances in the absence of a director.

During 2018 the BRI was again inspected by the USFDA and received notification that the audit was successful, a great tribute and acknowledgement despite its relatively small size and modest funding. This is especially noteworthy since the BRI successfully completed thirteen contractual studies involving 584 subjects since Dr Skinner's death in 2016. Compliance with FDA regulatory requirements is considered amongst the strictest in the world and there are national and international contract research organisations involved in such testing, many of whom are multi-million-dollar companies that have failed such regulatory audits.

In addition to the services provided by the BRI, this research institute has been the home of graduate research in drug development and assessment in the Faculty of Pharmacy and has provided excellent facilities, equipment, and research supervisors for many postgraduate students over the years, including funding of bursaries and scholarships for registered postgraduate students undertaking research in the BRI.

The BRI has and continues to provide services to industry and has been making significant research contributions through publication of peer reviewed articles in international journals and serves as a unique training ground for postgraduate students where fifteen students have graduated with the MSc degree, eleven with PhDs and currently registered postgraduate students undertaking projects for their degrees.

Unfortunately the recent COVID-19 pandemic resulted in a disruption of service and research activities from 2020 but notwithstanding, two BE studies undertaken on behalf of international pharmaceutical companies were successfully completed under the extremely challenging and onerous conditions resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic. This was a truly remarkable feat despite the severe COVID-19 constraints placed on recruitment of participants for such studies and on the staff.

An extremely disconcerting fact is, as previously mentioned, that following the passing of its former Director, Dr Mike Skinner, in 2016 the University has not appointed a successor. Appointment of a Director is an essential requirement to ensure the continuing successful functioning of this valuable Rhodes University asset.

However, despite numerous attempts and proposals to the University authorities to appoint a director as successor to the late Dr Skinner, no appointment has been made and consequently, prognosis of the BRI is uncertain.

Clearly, this delay is now highly likely to result in the demise of this Pearl to the detriment of the university.

Fellowship

Dr Seeprarani Rath, who recently graduated with a PhD at Rhodes University, has been awarded a prestigious Postdoctoral Fellowship at the University of Toronto, Canada, to the value of approximately R800 000. Dr Rath, who submitted her doctoral thesis in 2019 was, until recently, a Postdoctoral Fellow at the Rhodes University Biopharmaceutics Research Institute (BRI).

The University of Toronto is ranked amongst the top 20 universities in the world, and among the top two public institutions in North America, in the prestigious *Times Higher Education World University Rankings*. The highest ranking came in the research category, where it is placed 12th in the world and 8th globally for pharmacy and pharmaceutical science.

Dr Rath's research focuses on developing surrogate methods to assess the safety and efficacy of topical dermatological products. Surrogate methods are internationally recognised and help evaluate the safety and effectiveness of a product on a small number of healthy subjects, as opposed to thousands of patients included in clinical trials. Other surrogate methods involve in-vitro studies where the products are tested in the laboratory without needing patients or healthy human subjects. These methods determine how much of the drug permeates the skin using artificial membranes, which relates to the safety and efficacy of the drug.

Dr Rath developed a cost-effective measure to establish the safety and efficacy of medicines used for skin conditions like psoriasis, eczema, or fungal infections. "The foundation for this was laid at the BRI," she said. Professor Isadore Kanfer, Dr Rath's supervisor, stated that the BRI has long been acknowledged as being amongst the world's best research institutes for the assessment of bioequivalence of topical corticosteroid products and, more recently, efforts produced to develop novel methods for the assessment of the safety and efficacy of other dermatological medicinal products. The excellent research facilities and contributions originating from the BRI have provided an ideal research environment to encourage and facilitate the development of post-graduate students that are highly sought after. "Dr Rath is a good example of the high calibre of her resulting research efforts, which have been recognised by the award of a prestigious high-value



Dr Seeprarani Rath

and highly competitive postdoctoral fellowship at the University of Toronto in Canada," Prof Kanfer stated.

"I started developing novel methods using simulation software which would give an idea of how the product will act when it enters the skin," Dr Rath explained. This is done without recruiting human participants. Furthermore, this will save generic product manufacturers a lot of time and resources, ensuring faster entry of these products into the market and making them accessible to the broader public. "The main focus is to reduce the price of medicines while ensuring their quality, safety, and efficacy," she elaborated.

Dr Rath received this award to continue her research as there is a great demand for new and expedient methods to prove the safety and efficacy of dermatological prescription products. To qualify for this Fellowship, Dr Rath had to submit a research proposal and publications, which was reviewed by an expert panel.

The Fellowship, which commences on 1 December 2022, is for a year and extendable for two years. Upon completing of her Postdoctoral Fellowship she intends to continue her research and enter academia, as she has always been interested in it. "If that does not happen, I am open to industrial opportunities in the research and development area," she concluded.

Farewell to Prof Bev Wilson!

On 5 April 2022 the Faculty of Pharmacy held a special tea to bid farewell to Professor Bev Wilson as she officially enters retirement after 50 years in the Faculty. Many happy and amusing anecdotes were shared by Professor Wilson and her former students, who happen to include many current staff members as well as the current and former Deans!

Professor Wilson, originally from Canada, immigrated in 1972 and was planning on “only staying one year”. However, the town and University must have been a good fit and Professor Wilson built her life and career here in Makhandia, serving the Faculty for 50 years. After her first “attempt” at retiring, Professor Wilson was asked to return to the Faculty to assist with

running the Doctorate of Pharmacy (PharmD) program. Professor Wilson’s involvement in this first-of-its-kind program was invaluable and many of the PharmD graduates have since taken up notable positions where they can influence policy and serve the public, a contribution Prof Wilson rightfully feels proud about.

It has been a pleasure and an honour to have Professor Wilson in the Faculty for the last five decades and we are certain that her enthusiasm and contribution will continue to inspire the Faculty for many years to come. We wish Professor Wilson all the very best for her retirement and have no doubt that she will still stay busy and active as she continues with all the local philanthropic work she is involved in.



2022 Arbor Day

Professor Ros Dowse

by Prof Sandile Khamanga, Dean of the Faculty of Pharmacy

When I arrived at Rhodes University in 1998, Prof R Dowse was a Senior Lecturer in the Faculty of Pharmacy. She taught me Pharmaceutics in 1999. Prof Dowse joined the staff of the Faculty of Pharmacy as Lecturer in 1985 after graduating with a Doctor of Philosophy degree in Pharmacokinetics in 1984. Prof Dowse is highly respected by academic colleagues and the profession for her passion for ensuring optimal care for all patients and that current Pharmacy education is relevant.

Prof Dowse became a world renowned academic for her health literacy, adherence, patient information and pictogram research amongst other topics. She has an impact on Pharmacy practice and the lives of many vulnerable patients daily through the use of her pictograms and information leaflets on the Phelophepha Train. Prof Dowse has created a database which is freely available, which arguably is a significant community engagement initiative. Her locally-adapted South African pictograms scored higher on understandability than the original United States Pharmacopeia pictograms.

I asked Professor Izzy Kanfer for his comments from her undergraduate years, as a post-graduate supervisor, colleague and close friend. He describes Professor Dowse as “the epitome of courage, determination and scholastic endeavours having served the Faculty of Pharmacy and her profession as a pharmacist with distinction and dedication since her graduation and appointment”.

I have learned a lot over the years working with Prof Dowse. It has been an honour to work with a colleague who has been committed to student and worker success. You have inspired so many of us to strive to do our jobs better by working as a team toward achieving the academic goals. I truly appreciate her motivating me to be the best academic I can be. Thank you for the support, goodwill and encouragement during the last few years. With your perseverance and endurance, you have inspired many of us to take pride in our work. Many colleagues have been able to rely on you, and to talk to you about anything. We look



forward to staying in touch with you moving forward.

We will always cherish your exciting classes, enthusiastic lessons, and great deeds, and we appreciate the time and effort that you have put into academia for close to four decades. We join the members of the staff in wishing you a blissful retirement!

SAAHIP Award of Honour 2021

Prof Ros Dowse Hughes

Professor Roslind Dowse is well known in pharmacy circles. She is currently an Emeritus Associate Professor in the Faculty of Pharmacy at Rhodes University.

Ros completed her BPharm degree at Rhodes University in 1975, followed by a PhD in Pharmacokinetics in 1984. She then joined the Faculty of Pharmacy at Rhodes University in 1985 as a lecturer in Pharmaceutics and Pharmacy Practice. Her research focus changed from Pharmaceutics to Pharmacy Practice aspects, in particular health literacy, health education and health communication in limited literacy populations. During her career, she has published many articles in peer-reviewed journals. Ros was appointed to the editorial board of the *Journal of Communication in Healthcare* in 2011. Ros has been a loyal PSSA member for many years. She is an Honorary Life Member of Academy and an affiliated member of SAAHIP. She has served on the Academy executive committee, and has presented her research at the Academy and SAAHIP conferences, for which she has received many awards.

Nationally, Ros Dowse has been involved with projects of the National Department of Health and, at the time, the Medicines Control Council. She served on the Drug Information Committee of the Essential Drug Programme, and the Patient Information Leaflet Task Team of the MCC. Internationally, she is an individual member of the International Pharmaceutical Federation (FIP), where she served on the Consumer Medicines Information international working group.

Ros is our Pictogram Queen. She became an innovator in pharmacy practice research in South Africa. Her research included designing and evaluating health-related visuals or pictograms to act as a communication tool to address communication barriers such as language and literacy, and to research their role when included in written medicine information and when used by health professionals.

Patient-centred care became her passion when Ros herself became a patient. “As a consequence of my twenty-plus years history of oral cancer and

my experiences with the healthcare system and with healthcare professionals, I have integrated my various life roles as patient, health professional and researcher to act as a patient advocate to the health professions”, she says.

Ros, you’ve taught us that we, as pharmacists, must be vigilant and empathetic when dealing with patients. You’ve shown us that “Take two tablets three times a day” is not patient counselling, that leaving it solely to other healthcare professionals to interact with patients is unprofessional, and we must always remember that the patient deserves personal and focussed attention from the pharmacist.

Ros Dowse, we salute you!

Source: *South African Pharmacy Journal*, 2021, 88(2), p. 38.



2021 Vice-Chancellor's Distinguished Award for Community Engagement

Professor Rod Walker from the Rhodes University Faculty of Pharmacy was named the recipient of the prestigious Vice-Chancellor's Distinguished Award for Community Engagement in 2021. Prof Walker described the honour as "a wonderful recognition of the many who supported, facilitated and assisted in ensuring the success of the sanitiser project."

During 2020 and 2021 Prof Walker and his team were hard at work producing and distributing hand sanitiser, manufactured according to the World Health Organisation guidelines, to healthcare workers and the most vulnerable members of society.

Despite an often-limited team, over 14 562 litres of sanitiser were produced in the facility. "This amounts to more than 14 million hands being sanitised." Prof Walker stated.

The distribution of this hand sanitiser reached far beyond the boundaries of the Rhodes University, Makhanda or even the Makana District. Healthcare workers in busy hospitals, people in rural communities and about 3000 farmers benefitted. Furthermore, based on this project, a new Service-Learning component has been developed and included in the Industrial Pharmacy elective offered by the Pharmacy Faculty.

"Prof Walker's initiative truly embodies the nexus of community engagement, teaching, learning and research at Rhodes University." said Diana Hornby, Director of Community Engagement at Rhodes University. "He is commended for his ability to harness years of academic knowledge and to quickly provide an appropriate and effective response to a global and local crisis. The rigour of the process of setting up the project and sustaining it through reciprocal partnerships and teaching and learning and research endeavours are acknowledged. Moreover, the emotional weight that this project carried at a time of great fear, anxiety and tragedy is greatly appreciated."

The award to Prof Walker was made at the Pharmacy graduation ceremony in April 2022. Prof Walker delivered a public lecture on his work on 10 May 2022, during Community Engagement Week at Rhodes University.



Physical developments on campus ...

Phase 1 Building design summary: December 2023

By Natalie Paterson on behalf of the Building Project Team

In March 2022 we were presented with the daunting, but also exciting, opportunity of a totally blank space in which to design three teaching laboratories to enhance our program and ensure the safety of our staff and students. Incredibly, nine months later complete detailed designs of fit for purpose laboratories that will house Pharmaceutics, Pharmacology, A&P, APP&P, Pharmaceutical Chemistry and Sterile Products practicals are ready. An enormous thank you for input from all colleagues for participating in this process and making this happen. These spaces will not only meet our needs and be safe and functional but also be a joy for staff and students to work in.

The process

The first stage of the design process was a high-level discussion between Prof Khamanga (as the Dean of Pharmacy) and Prof Klein (HOD of Chemistry) about the allocation of the 5 floors in the North wing of the building. It was decided that the most logical allocation would be:

- **Lower ground floor:** Pharmacology/ Pharmaceutics laboratory
- **Ground floor:** Chemistry first-year laboratory
- **First floor:** Chemistry second- and third-year laboratory
- **Third floor (aka upper 2nd floor):** Pharmaceutical Chemistry laboratory
- **Fourth floor:** Pharmacy

After this, an in-person meeting between the architect and the user groups of each space was conducted. Originally, it was suggested that the 4th floor be used as a Pharmacy Practice teaching space, however, through consultation it became apparent that alternative options would be better suited. Therefore, it made sense to use the 4th floor for the Sterile Products Laboratory, which is to be demolished in Phase 1. The subsequent design of the Sterile Products Laboratory on the 4th floor resulted in two other spaces becoming available. These were considered ideal for a Tissue Culture Laboratory and a Pharmacy Practice Interview Room.

Subsequently, the design process started in earnest. User groups consisting of academic and

support staff, drew rough sketches and discussed essential design elements for each space. From there, the architect was consulted and he provided basic drawings. These were taken back to the user groups and amended multiple times until a reasonable skeleton of the design was created.

Once this was in place the details were hammered out. Every millimeter of space was considered and adjusted until the design was just right. It cannot be stressed enough the number of meetings, iterations of the drawings and emails back and forth were involved in this process. The architect and his team were fantastic in accommodating every whim and change academics put to him along the way. It was truly a dynamic and collaborative process that resulted in a product that is sure to meet our needs.

At the same time, experts in electrics, water services, gas services, Audio Visual (AV) and air handling were consulted and continuously involved in this process. Everything from the conductivity of the RO water to the strength of the vacuum to the number of two-prong versus three-prong plugs was discussed.

All of this was done with the oversight of the Project Manager, who is also the Quantity Surveyor for the project. Cost had to be balanced against necessity and quality. Not an easy task in such technical spaces. The last thing to do was complete room data sheets which listed every item in each room so that the Quantity Surveyor could put together a cost projection. Finally, the job went to tender, and a contractor was appointed to start the work to bring the plans to life.

Lower-ground laboratory

The Lower-ground laboratory will be used for Pharmaceutics, Pharmacology, A&P and APP&P practicals. There is bench space for 96 students. Each student will have a comfortable work area with a balance, an LP gas point, a plug bank and access to a basin. The benches have been designed to the millimeter to ensure students will be able to work comfortably with microscopes and other instruments. Each student also has a locker with

bespoke draws designed to neatly hold their glassware and equipment.

The laboratory is fitted with two hydroboils for instant hot water and a couple of RO water taps. Space for waste disposal and paper towel dispensers has also been considered. Health and safety has been an important aspect of the design and the lab will be fitted with industrial air handling and a safety shower among other measures.

Side benches provide sufficient storage space for microscopes and other items. Surfaces are available for ovens and small instruments like pH meters, viscometers etc. One unique design element is a large display cabinet for the anatomical models to be displayed when not in use.

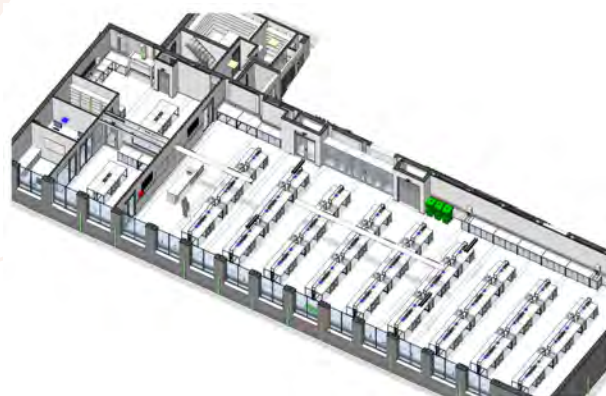


From a teaching perspective, one of the most exciting parts of the design is the AV system. The system will be controlled from a PC installed at the front teaching bench. Large monitors at the front will be mirrored by monitors suspended from the ceiling throughout the lab to allow all students to see presentations clearly. A document camera will allow physical demonstrations to be shown to the whole class simultaneously. Sound and acoustics have also been considered and speakers will be placed throughout the laboratory so all students can hear clearly. Colleagues who have stood at the front of the old lab trying to present a pre-prac talk at the top of their voices using a chalk board while students at the back looking confused will surely be delighted with this new design! It really makes the space fit for teaching and learning.

The prep area is found at the back of the lab and is designed for the Pharmacology and Pharmaceutics disciplines to work independently but also share some common spaces such as the wash-up area.

As this lab serves both the Pharmacology division and Pharmaceutics division it will certainly be very busy. Therefore, many hours of work were put in and many drawings of various configurations were produced by the architect until a final design to optimally support the workflow for both divisions was developed. Storeroom space has been optimised and central work benches in the prep area provide a convenient working space. A fume hood is built-in for working with hazardous chemicals.

In the prep-area there is a PTO office and a cubicle for Technical Assistants. Ultimately, this office space will be designated for the Pharmacology technical staff while the Pharmaceutics technical team will be housed in the QC lab space, after it is renovated in Phase 2.



Pharmaceutical Chemistry laboratory

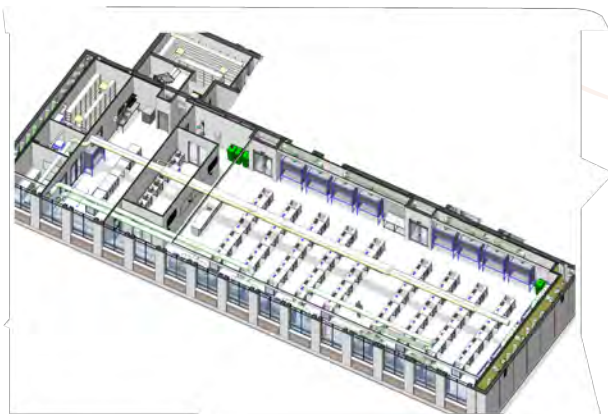
The new Pharmaceutical Chemistry laboratory was the most challenging and technical spaces to design. Ensuring quality teaching and learning could take place in a safe environment was the driver for this project. What has been created is a multifunctional chemistry laboratory that significantly opens up the opportunity for expanding the Pharmaceutical Chemistry program, specifically the organic synthesis component of the practical course. This laboratory can also be used for the microbiology practicals done in BMI.

This laboratory is situated on the upper-second floor where the BRG, Sterile Products and Anatomy labs currently are. The lab is kitted out with 23 fume hoods around the perimeter which allows space for 46 students to work with hazardous materials. In the center of the lab there is open bench space for 45 students. The fume hoods have been cleverly and carefully designed so that the height, depth and sash dimensions allow

the fume hoods to be used as regular bench space when not in fume-hood-mode, thus increasing the bench space to 91 for practicals that do not use hazardous chemicals.

An important feature is the floor standing fume hood with sliding doors (think of a shower) that is used as a waste collection point for hazardous solvents and other chemicals. There are sinks with compressed air taps available at the ends of the center benches to wash and dry glassware. Space has also been provided for drying ovens. In case of an emergency, two emergency showers are positioned at each end of the lab. Of course, air handling and extraction have also been installed throughout the teaching and prep areas.

A special feature is a long balance room that allows students to enter on one side and exit on the other, creating a smooth workflow. The balance room is fitted with granite tops to prevent vibration and sliding doors to prevent excessive air turbulence. It has space for up to ten analytical balances.



The same AV set up as in the lower ground floor lab is installed at the front bench so that students throughout the lab can engage with teaching demonstrations, announcements and presentations.

The prep area is spacious and is kitted out with large glass and chemical stores. Acid/base cupboards, flame proof cabinets and a fume hood are present to ensure that all chemicals can be safely used and stored. There is also a wash-up area, a large work bench and space for an autoclave. A stable door at one of the entrances to the prep area can be left opened during the practicals so that students can access the technical staff and report broken glassware etc. The prep area also includes a PTO office and a cubical for Technical Assistants.

Special credit must be given to Dr Goosen for the tremendous effort she put into assisting with the design of this space and especially the fume hoods. Every inch of the design has been carefully considered and reworked multiple times with the architect to ensure both organic and inorganic practicals can take place optimally. Many hours were spent with a tape measure measuring every shelf, drawer, chair, fume hood and workspace.

Fourth floor

This floor will go through the most significant transformation. It will comprise of the Sterile Products lab, a Tissue Culture Research lab and a Pharmacy Practice interview room. The central stairs in the building will be extended to access this floor and the north wing service lift will also reach this floor. Besides technical services, this lift will also allow physically challenged individuals to easily access this floor. The roof will be 'popped up' to make the space usage more efficient. All the services like HVAC and fume hood exhausts will exit through the roof but a skirting will be built to keep it aesthetically appealing.



Sterile products laboratory

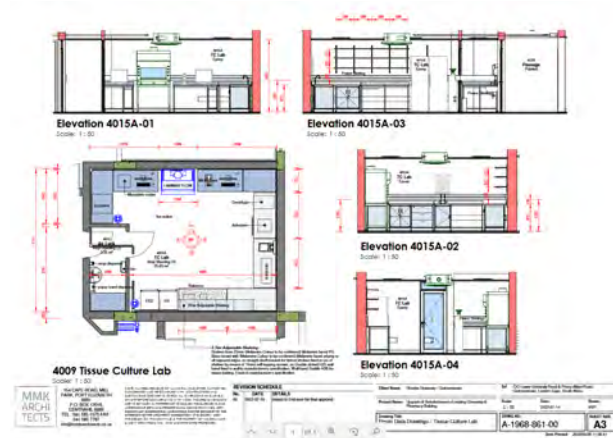
One very exciting part of Phase 1 is the inclusion of a new Sterile Products lab that has been expanded to fit forty rather than twenty students at a time, thus decreasing the necessity to repeat each practical eight times to only four times. This laboratory has bench space for forty students and each student has a small locker. Basins for cleaning glassware are set in each bench. There are also plug banks on the benches to allow balances, pH meters etc. to be plugged in. A nitrogen gas tap at the front bench can be used for sparging solutions without the need for a gas tank in the lab.

The aseptic compounding area has space for five LAF hoods, so there is the opportunity to add to the three currently used. Entry to the aseptic compounding area is designed to demonstrate the

important features of clean room design covered in the theory course e.g., a step over bench to move from the “dirty” side to the “clean” side; handwashing facilities with “no touch” taps, entry and exit airlocks, rounded corners on the floors, flush window and a convenient one-way route to speed up the workflow.

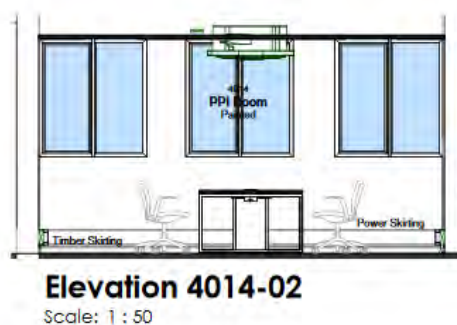
A separate prep and storage area is adjacent to the main lab which will be used for storage of all the bulky PPE and allow preparation of sterile filters, vials etc. on site. An A/V system is also installed in the central teaching area so that demonstrations, videos and presentations can be done.

The design is such that this space also offers an opportunity for tutorials or other small group activities to be conducted in the central space when the lab is not in use for Sterile Products practicals.



Pharmacy Practice interview room

This room is found on the right-hand side of the central stairs. It will serve as a quiet, comfortable and functional space for focus group discussions, one on one interviews with participants or even a small seminar room if needed. It will be fitted with carpets, some filing cabinets, plug points and space for chairs and movable tables that can be set up in various configurations.



Tissue culture laboratory

The long-awaited Tissue Culture lab is found on left hand side as one comes up the central stairs. Credit for this design must be given to Prof Mothibe and Dr Sibiya. This fit for purpose design will allow the continuation of productive research in this field. To reduce contamination of cell cultures an air lock will be used to enter the lab and no windows are present so entry of external dust and contamination will be prevented. Space has been provided for the LAF hood, cell counter, water bath and other essential equipment and instruments.

Some extras

- Students will have lockers outside each laboratory to keep their bags and belongings in while they work in the laboratories.
- Outside each laboratory there will be boxes for submission of write-ups etc. There will also be alphabetised pigeonholes for collection of written work. These will be under a flat counter-top, perfect for putting out boxes of notes, manuals and the like.
- The laboratories (and rest of the building) will be connected to water tanks so hopefully the water woes of the past will be addressed and practicals can continue regardless of the municipal water supply (or rather the lack of supply).

SUMMARY

The chapter is now closed on the design of Phase 1. It will be exciting to see all the hard work come to fruition and hopefully all the inconvenience, difficulties and stress of decanting will be worth it. Upon completion, there will inevitably be parts of the design that are not perfect, however all Faculty staff and the professional design team involved can be very proud of what has been achieved in such a short space of time.

High-level Phase 2 planning has started. For the Pharmacy Faculty, the refurbishment and design

of the Pharmacy Practice teaching lab will be a significant focus of this phase. Pharmacy Practice colleagues have already started formulating some ideas for this space. Expansion of the QC lab is also on the cards and, of course, upgrading and designing safe and functional research laboratories will be a major element of the project.

“Buildings are deeply emotive structures which form our psyche. People think they’re just things they maneuver through, but the makeup of a person is influenced by the nature of spaces.”

- David Adjaye, Ghanaian-British architect.



Refurbishment work starts on the undergraduate laboratory. This laboratory has seen decades of Pharmaceutics and Pharmaceutical Chemistry practicals and hundreds of students.

2023 Oath Ceremony



Pharmacy staff pose with the top students of the class of 2022. Thirty students were awarded distinctions – an achievement celebrated by the Faculty.



The Dean, Professor Sandile Khamanga, addresses students and staff at the Oath Ceremony, 2023.



Three Deans: Professor Rod Walker, Professor Beverley Wilson, and the current Dean, Professor Sandile Khamanga. Prof Wilson led the Faculty between 1993-1999 and Prof Walker between 2008-2015.

down the years



Alumni news

Dr Chris Milton writes...

Dear Sirion,
I hope this email finds you well.

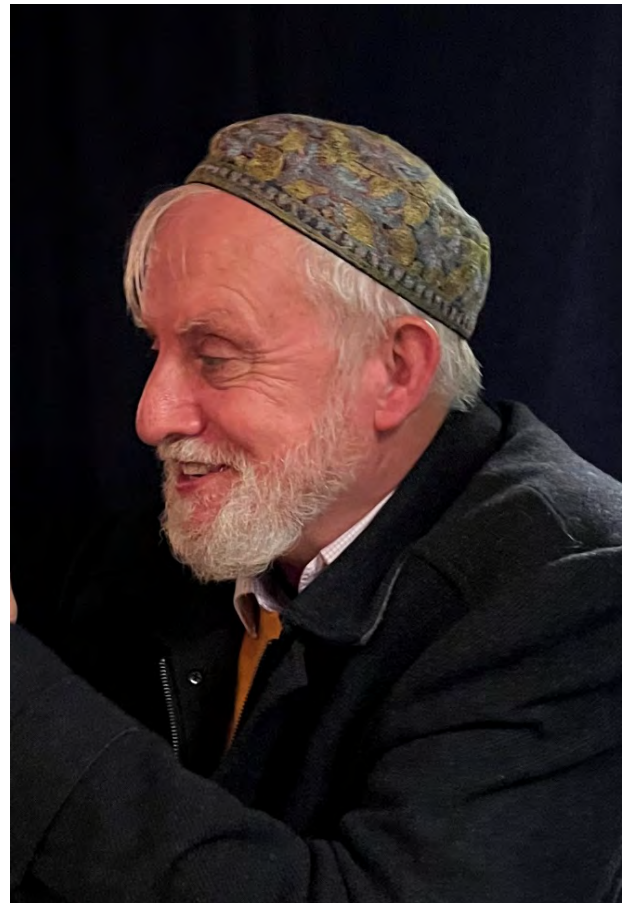
I saw a general invitation from John Haigh for people to contact you to contribute to a review that you are writing. I do not know if my own journey qualifies because I have not been a pharmacist for decades now (although I only deregistered in 2003) but nonetheless thought I would send you this in case it is of interest and use to you.

After I finished my pharmacy internship at the old Grey's Hospital in Pietermaritzburg in 1980 I moved to Pretoria to go to medical school there. Apart from studying there I had a job in the Chemistry Department preparing practicals for the first-year students. I reported to Mike van der Linde who was also at Rhodes when I first arrived in Grahamstown in 1976 (I had been at the University of Natal Durban for some years before that). In the middle of 1981 I was finally called up to the SADF and served in the SA Medical Services as a "pharmaceutical officer" (lieutenant). I cleared out in 1983 and worked at Uitenhage Day Hospital pharmacy for about six months then returned to Pretoria to study medicine. I became very disillusioned with what I saw of medicine and after doing particularly well in a physiology exam (I had a very good original teacher of this at Rhodes!) * decided to leave with the intention of studying psychology the next year. I worked out the remains of 1984 in the pharmacy at Garankuwa State Hospital. I returned to Rhodes in 1985. By 1989, having completed an MA in Clinical Psychology I started my private practice in Grahamstown. My wife, Laura, and I moved to Cape Town in 1991 and I continued in private practice doing a lot of work with children. I came up to Rhodes several times during the 1990s to give intensive courses in both child psychotherapy and Jungian analysis. In Cape Town I completed a Senior Diploma in psychotherapy under the auspices of the South African Institute of Psychotherapy I went on to be both President and head of faculty of that organization. Also whilst in Cape Town I commenced both the Rhodes PhD in Psychotherapy and the Cape Town training as a Jungian Psychoanalyst. I completed the latter in 2000 and graduated with the former in 2004. My daughter, Jessamie (no "n" in her name), was born in 2000. We left for New Zealand in 2002 where I

initially worked at a Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services for the first three years. In 2006 I became a Training Analyst with the Australian and New Zealand Society of Jungian Analysts. I have served them as Secretary, President and Director of Training over the years. I have served on the editorial board of the Indo-Pacific Journal of Phenomenology for a good number of years. I have a clutch of locally published papers on psychoanalysis. I have been in private practice for the last fifteen years in Auckland, I teach Jungian analysis, supervise and conduct analyses. Life is very pleasant in New Zealand. I walk, study Biblical archaeology and am a lay service leader in the Auckland Progressive Jewish community.

In 2007 I was appointed, by the New Zealand Minister for Health, a founder member of the Psychotherapist's Board of Aotearoa New Zealand, a position that I held for the next three and a half years.

** Your remark noted, with pleasure, Chris. Thank you. I knew him too. Ed.*



Michael Knott (Class of '99) writes...

Michael Knott completed his B. Pharm degree at Rhodes University in 1999, his MSc (Pharmacy) *with distinction* in 2002, and later finished a PhD (Pharmaceutical Chemistry) at Rhodes University in 2012. He is a registered pharmacist in South Africa, Namibia and Malta (EU). In 1999 he received an odd award at the final 4th year dinner titled, "Most unlikely pharmacist."

Michael moved to Namibia in 2014 to assist with setting up the first and only School of Pharmacy in the country. Since then, he has obtained Namibian permanent residence and has played a key role in lecturing and researching Pharmaceutical Sciences in Namibia.

He is currently an associate professor in the Department of Pharmaceutical Chemistry at the School of Pharmacy, University of Namibia. His passionate about natural products and travelling, as a result, he loves to explore remote parts of Namibia and learn more about natural products from the San and Damara people.



Michael is well published in the field of natural product drug discovery. <https://scholar.google.com/citations?user=omDI2d8AAAAJ&hl=en>

In 2020, he got his PhD from Rhodes nostrificated (or recognised) in Poland (EU) by the Medical University of Gdansk, and in 2018 he completed

his Postgraduate Diploma in Higher Education *with distinction* at the University of Namibia.

He currently lives in Windhoek with his wife, Harriet (who is a clinical psychologist) and their daughter, Annabelle (9 years old).

Fiona Baxter (nee Glew) writes...

Having completed my BPharm and MSc (supervisor Prof Izzy Kanfer) in the 1980s, I joined the pharmaceutical industry as a Clinical Research Associate, and spent several years in the pharmaceutical industry managing a diverse portfolio of clinical trials. Following this period working in the industry, I started my own consultancy managing clinical trial projects on behalf of several international pharmaceutical companies. This allowed me the opportunity and flexibility to actively select projects in which I wanted to get involved in.

Currently, I am living in Perth, Australia with my husband Rod (PhD Chemistry, Rhodes University) and adult children, Megan and Stuart. Megan is a medical intern doctor having recently graduated from medical school.

Please send my regards and best wishes to all the staff in the Faculty of Pharmacy - quite a few of them were there when I was a pharmacy student / postgraduate student.



Barbara Mutch writes...

Dear Sirion

I see that it is time for another Review, and that you will be putting it together once more! Many thanks for your dedication. It is a treat to have a place where we can catch up with our classmates.

The update I sent you last year still holds true, except for the delightful fact that my latest novel, *The Fire Portrait*, was published in the UK in August 2021 in print, e-book and audiobook. The paperback is distributed in SA by Jonathan Ball.

I'm attaching a pic of the cover. The book is set in a fictional hamlet called Aloe Glen, on the edge of the Karoo, and features an English artist who settles in the area with her schoolmaster husband in the 1930s. War, politics, love, loss....

The Fire Portrait hangs in a gallery in London. Haunting portrait hints at turmoil, headlined one newspaper.

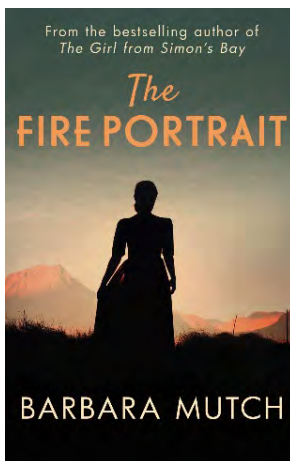
Fractured society, says another

An omen, says a third.

A modern classic, is the consensus.

Many thanks, once again, for your hard work in compiling the Review.

www.barbaramutch.com



Dr Bernard Symon writes...

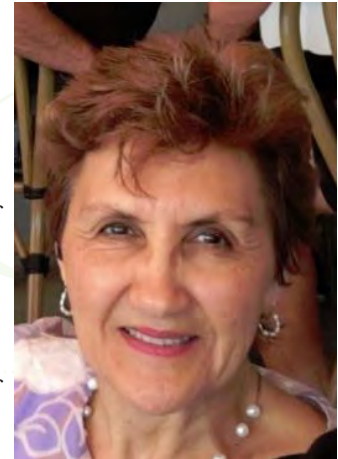
Not much has changed since my inclusion. However, if you would like you could put the same info and photo in again.

Oh, I achieved a certificate in Adolescent Depression from Oplex Careers.

I am still trying to publish my book on Brain Laterality involved with life situations such as who best to marry and what best to study etc.

Helen Speros Sophos (nee Ferendinos) (Class of 1982) writes...

I have had an interesting career. I loved my work in South Africa where I was able to serve and watch so many intern pharmacists, many of them from Rhodes, develop and grow in their roles as pharmacists and leaders. At the end of 2009 our family moved to Melbourne



where the situation was tougher as pharma manufacturing is limited. I spent five years in the mining industry travelling around Australia until I finally landed a Quality Regulatory Manager role at Bio Nova supporting a vascular prosthesis Omniflow II, used for peripheral revascularisation and arteriovenous access. Wow, what a huge learning curve; biological medical device, chemical, aseptic, gamma and ETO sterilisations. After 5+, years our planned transfer to the parent company LeMaitre in Boston was dashed due to COVID. A few months later I joined Invetech, a provider of design, instrument development and contract manufacturing in cell and gene therapy and diagnostics markets. Every day is challenging as I learn about new directives in a number of disciplines. Learning is a lifelong goal and the foundation of my BPharm has always held me in good stead. Hi to all the other Rhodian pharmacists.

In Memoriam

Eric Meyer (1956-2022)



Eric graduated with a BPharm from Rhodes University in 1979, completed the requisite year as a pharmacy intern in Sea Point, Cape Town and returned to Rhodes in 1980 to start his postgraduate studies. He was awarded his MSc in 1985 and obtained his PhD in 1989. In 1982, Eric was appointed as a temporary Pharmacy lecturer and was later appointed to a permanent post in 1985, lecturing mainly in Pharmacy Law. He headed the Rhodes arm of the nationally run programme, Pharmacists Against Drug Abuse (PADA), for a number of years.

Eric's Jewish faith was a central pillar of his life; he was a committed member of SAUJS (South African Union of Jewish Students), was Chairman for a number of years and always attended the Friday night shabbat meals at Hillel House in Somerset Street. He was also active in the Karate Club, earning his black belt. He was Warden of Cullen Bowles for many years.

In 1989 he emigrated to Sydney, Australia. Working in his brother-in-law's ice-cream shop at Bondi Beach for his first three months didn't exactly require a PhD, but certainly offered great views of that iconic beach! He then worked as a medical representative (Roussel), but in 1994 left to join Sydney University as a Lecturer in the Pharmacy Practice Department for three years. The pharmaceutical industry lured him back and he became, in turn, Medical Affairs Manager (Searle), Regulatory Affairs Manager (Scigen, a biotech company), Medical Manager (Sanofi-Aventis, second largest pharmaceutical company in Australia) and finally Medical Director (Pfizer, largest pharmaceutical company in Australia). However, due to the onset of his illness, he was forced to retire in 2020.

Eric was one of those special people in life, who taught others, by example, of what it meant to be a good, caring person, always treating others gently and respectfully. His rabbi described Eric's life as replete in giving, as a man he exemplified integrity, values and spiritual leadership and was a man of good. When he was diagnosed with acute myeloid leukaemia in early 2020, a Rhodes pharmacy graduate whom he befriended and mentored after her emigration to Sydney established a Facebook site, Pharmacy @ Rhodes, to follow his progress. Eric died on 9 May 2022. The Facebook site reflects Eric's legacy in that it has over 800 members and has resulted in many ex-Rhodes pharmacists re-connecting with friends. A few of the many comments posted after Eric's death tell their own story: a fabulous educator; your principles and steadfastness will be your legacy; I have never forgotten Eric's lesson on never making assumptions about people; Eric's happy spirit, sharp wit and kindness will always stay with me; you touched so many; personally benefited from Eric's mentorship in the PADA campaign; an amazing man who will be missed by many. He leaves behind his beloved wife, Helen, and sons Aaron and Jacob. He will be mourned and missed by many.

Ros Dowse

Kevin Williams (1956-2022)



Kevin started his university education at Rhodes University obtaining a Bachelor of Theology in 1979. After obtaining his Master of Theology in 1993 from the then University of Natal, he returned to Rhodes with his family and was appointed as lecturer on a short-term contract. His health took a turn for the worse in 1999 and he had to have heart transplant surgery in 2000 which was successful. Kevin then joined the Academic Development Centre (ADC) which is now the Centre for Higher Education Research, Teaching and Learning (CHERTL).

The necessity of post-transplant life-long immunosuppressant therapy made for regular interaction with pharmacists, and it was his varied interactions with a number of these health professionals that made him question if pharmacists were adequately equipped to advise and support the medicine-taking practices of patients using chronic medication. To this end, in 2004, he offered a ground-breaking elective course to final year pharmacy students, rooted in the sociology of health and illness, that aimed, through experiential learning, at facilitating a holistic understanding of the experience of people living with chronic illness, with particular reference to the determinants influencing their medicine-taking behaviour. This course formed

the basis of his PhD, titled *“Using experiential learning to facilitate pharmacy students’ understanding of patients’ medication practice in chronic illness”*. Kevin was supervised by Chrissie Boughey and Ros Dowse and was awarded his PhD in 2006 having received outstandingly complimentary comments from all three examiners who noted that he had made a unique, valuable contribution to an under-researched area in pharmacy practice. In 2006, Kevin co-supervised a group of final year pharmacy students conducting a research project which critically evaluated pharmacists’ understanding of their role in advising and supporting people living with diabetes. Students were also introduced to interviewing diabetes patients about their experiences with the condition as a means of developing insight into the patient experience.

Kevin and his wife then moved to Cape Town to be closer to his heart transplant team. He took up a permanent position in the Higher & Adult Education Studies Unit at UCT. However, in 2014 he was diagnosed with a terminal, neuro-degenerative disease - corticobasal degeneration - and was medically boarded. During this time, he created a blog named “cognitivedegenerate” that showcased his superb writing skills alongside his wisdom, insight and wide-ranging commentary on life. Unfortunately, his deteriorating condition with its severe effects on mobility, speech and swallowing eventually forced him to stop. His emails over the years beautifully and baldly described his everyday challenges of trying to survive a life with a failing body, the many medicines he was prescribed and their side effects, the experiences with a range of health professionals, both good and bad – an excellent tool for teaching others about the reality and ruthlessness of this condition.

The Faculty of Pharmacy acknowledges, with gratitude and thanks, Kevin’s contribution to the then emerging discipline of pharmacy practice, in part by offering a course that included innovative teaching methods such as showing a film followed by guided reflection, having a specialist in to talk about care of the patient, and having students interview patients. Kevin interacted with many Pharmacy staff members, suggesting the introduction of sociology in pharmacy, the interrogation of both the biomedical and sociological perspectives on illness/disease, a focus on the lived patient experience, and looking at the

role of the pharmacist in diverse disease states.

Kevin lived with corticobasal degeneration for eight years, passing way in April 2022. He leaves his wife Cheryl, grateful for the 22 years of their marriage, his former wife Eleanor, his son Adrian and daughter Alison, and a grandson who was four months old at the time of his death. Our deep condolences to all family.

Ros Dowse

Billy de Klerk (1953-2022)



Billy trained at Rhodes University, graduating with a BSc in Geology (1976) followed, after some time working as a geologist, by an MSc (1981) and a PhD (1991). He was Curator and Head of the Earth Sciences Department at the Albany Museum in Makhanda for over 30 years, during which time he inspired generations of Geology students with his infectious enthusiasm and extensive knowledge of palaeontology.

However, both Billy's kidneys failed completely when he was 55, and after six months of dialysis he underwent a kidney transplant after which he started immunosuppressant therapy. He took a deep interest in his medical condition, researching it thoroughly. His dual patient and academic perspectives of having experienced both dialysis and a major organ transplant which demanded lifelong follow-up medication made him an ideal speaker to introduce second-year pharmacy students to the lived patient experience of undergoing these procedures and actively having to manage his post-transplant health and life. Billy meticulously researched and gathered information on all stages of his kidney failure journey and created a fascinating and deeply informative presentation which he was generous enough to share each year with our pharmacy students over a number of years.

Billy lived for a further thirteen years post-dialysis and passed away at the age of 69. The Faculty of Pharmacy thanks and salutes Billy for his valuable, patient-centred contribution to student learning. We offer our deepest condolences to Viv, his wife, and his three children and their families.

Ros Dowse

Memorabilia



Pharmacy Ball, 1979: Nicole Murray, Kevin Macintosh, Sel Potgieter, Niel Dunstan, Pat Bevis, Egil Ramstad, Sally-Ann Robertson, Sirion Robertson, Len Paton, Bev Wilson, Jo Kanfer, Rasheeda Daya, Izzy Kanfer, Santy Daya. Kneeling: Peter Peachy, Ben Potgieter, Mark van Wyk, Chris Milton.



Celebrating Ros Dowse's PhD, with co-supervisors John Haigh and Izzy Kanfer



Many blanks in this picture, for which we apologise. In the back row are, amongst others, Tina Ehlers, Faye van Ballegooyen and George Olivier. Front (kneeling): Ashley Magnus, Santy Daya, Ros Dowse



RUPSA 1979. Back: Pat Bevis, ?, ?, Kevin Macintosh, Chris Milton, Nicole Murray, Donna Jean Happelt.
Front: ?, Mark van Wyk, Izzy Kanfer, 'Lambe' Parolis, Peter Peachy, Niel Dunstan.



Postgraduate students, 1980. Back: Eric Meyer, Dougall Morton, Kevin Macintosh, Santy Daya
Front: Val Heemstra, Ros Dowse, Karen Braae



Otis King's calculator

This was (indeed still is, according to Google) a very up-market type of cylindrical slide rule. It doesn't seem to have been completely displaced by modern electronic calculators. It's a beautifully-made instrument.



Pill maker (above): A thick paste of the ingredients and fillers was made in a mortar and then rolled into a long thin 'pipe'. This was placed on the grid, on the machine, and cut into pieces. The pieces were then rolled, with figure-of-eight motion, under the round disc (shown) until they were spherical. The test of a good pill was that they should bounce on a hard surface.

Vapocresolene lamp (left): A tarry liquid was placed in the upper dish and the lamp under it was lit. The boiling liquid gave off a pungent gas (nowadays regarded as having no therapeutic value, and potentially dangerous) that was intended to reduce bronchial congestion. *(The editor remembers one of these lamps being used in his bedroom.)*

We thank those of you who have sent us updates. We welcome news from our graduates, and if you can send one or two pictures, so much the better. If they're 'memorabilia' from your Rhodes days, please identify people in the photograph(s). Please address emails to me, sirion.robertson@ru.ac.za, or to the Dean, s.khamanga@ru.ac.za. If I'm no longer the editor I'll see that they're sent to the right person.

Thanks to John Haigh and Pat Bevis for sending us several pictures, some of which we've used in this issue of the Review.

Technical and administrative support

By Niall Borland

The 2021 and 2022 period has been another very busy period with growing numbers of students and growth in our staffing component. It was a relief to return to some form of normalcy after the COVID-19 restrictions. We have been preparing for the huge refurbishment project of the entire building by running pilot practicals in other departments on campus. We have utilised the new bioscience laboratory for our pharmaceuticals practicals and the Zoology and Entomology laboratories in the Life Sciences building, for some of our pharmacology practicals. We will be spread-out all-over campus for the next three years, hoping to partly return to new state of the art laboratories in 18 months for our BPharm program. The refurbishment has been split into two phases, essentially undergraduate and research.

On the administrative front it is generally the same cyclical work conducted and there seems to be an ever-growing volume of it, as policies and due diligence requirements increase. From the beginning of 2022 we launched a new finance system to replace the old protea system, called Fincore. This is a cloud based financial operating system from Oracle. There has been some expected teething problems and a resultant delay in procurement of resources, along with delays in managing and reporting on the use of finances, which has led to frustrations all round. Progress is being made and I believe by the end of the year these issues will be ironed out.

On the staffing side, we still have Ms Linda Emslie and Mrs Tanya Kent with many years of experience now, supporting the administration of

the Faculty. Tanya is still completing her studies towards a BComm degree and is almost at the finish line.

We had a new addition to our admin staff, Mr Shiraj Patrick joined us on the 1 September 2021 as administrator of our Clinical Skills Training project which has grown over the years and augments the clinical component of the BPharm degree as well as partnering with our local public community clinical sites.

On the technical staff front we have the same team, with the addition of Mr Mzukisi Matyumza who joined us as Senior Lab assistant in pharmacology and pharmacy practice in July 2021. We are fortunate to have someone who has had experience working with Gardmed as a paramedic.

Some notable achievements include Mr Sibusiso Ngxingo enrolling for a MSc Pharm degree with Professor Roman Tandlich as supervisor in mid-2021 and attending the Rhodes Supervisory Development Program which started earlier in 2021. Below is his certification ceremony with the HR Director and Vice Chancellor of the University.

In conclusion, a special mention must be made for Ms Amanda Zuma (Principal Technical Officer in Pharmacology and Pharmacy practice) on the birth of her second child in late August 2022 with her partner, fellow staff member, Dr Ntethelelo Sibiya – Anatomy & Physiology lecturer in the Pharmacology Division.



Faculty support staff, November 2022

Left to right, seated: Ms Linda Emslie (Office Administrator); Mr Mzukisi Matyumza (Senior Lab Assistant); Mr Niall Borland (Manger, Admin and Technical Support); Mr Likhaya Hempe (Senior Lab Assistant); Ms Tanya Kent (Administrative Assistant). Left to right, standing: Mr Sibusiso Ngxingo (Principal Technical Officer); Mr Xolani Rasana (Principal Technical Officer); Mr Shiraaj Patrick (Project Administrator); Mr Thando Fleck (Senior Lab Assistant).

Quest for Excellence

The Faculty of Pharmacy is striving to maintain the levels of excellence it has built up over the years, and for which it is recognised. Although the University continues to make substantial contributions, external funding is a pre-requisite in these days of severe financial constraints due to the government cut-backs in the funding of tertiary education.

This particular appeal is directed at soliciting funding to support the integrity and quality of our BPharm curriculum delivery to our students and to support our postgraduate projects. This will help ensure that our Faculty continues to be acknowledged as a Centre for Excellence.

Over the years we have had support from a number of our pharmacy graduates, many of

whom have made donations on a regular basis. We are very grateful for this support and value deeply all contributions made.

If you would like to donate, please use the following banking details:

Account Name: Rhodes University
Account Type: Public Sector Managed Account
Account Number: 62145503076
Branch Code: 210717
Branch Name: GRAHAMSTOWN, C.P.232
Swift Code: FIRNZAJJ
Please use the Reference: "Quest for Excellence 25009"

All donations are tax deductible.

Your support would be much appreciated.





FACULTY OF PHARMACY ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

1959 - 1985

BSc (Pharm) 1959 - 1972

1959 Allen DJ (P)
Spruyt JEL (P,C)

1960 De Bruyn GC (C)
Hamilton JM (P)
Melunsky L (C)
Nowitz M (C)

1961 Borer M (P)
Kaplan ER (P,C)

1962 Heyman D (P)
King PD (P,C)
Lawrence PA (P,C)
Marlow HF (P,C)
Murphy VM (P)
Negin JS (P,C)
Parolls H (P,C)
Whysall JA (P,C)
Zarenda I (P,C)

1963 Glen M (C)
Rubin G (P,C)
Schnell GF (P,C)

Simpson J (P,C)
Snyckers H-H (P,C)
Wright DPM (P)

1964 Monk DM (P)

1965 Albertyn JR (C)
Khan MW (P)
Plummer PE (P)

1966 Matzkin IR (C)
Mavrandonis A (P,C)

1967 Kanfer I (P)
Klagsbrun SJ (C)
van der Westhuizen M-H (C)

1968 Avin R (P)
Hallam CT (P,C)
Kewley JC (P)
Potgieter E (P)
Russell I (P)
West EG (P)

1969 Persicaner PHR (C)
Taylor M (C)

van Rensburg NE (P)

1970 Ehlers S (P,C)
Irvine B (C)
Joffe MT (P)

1972 Horne JH (C)

BPharm 1973 - 1979

1974 Bodley JA (PCL)

1975 Butler JH (PCL,PC)
McKenzie AG (PC)

1976 Barber EJ (PCL)
Bourne JP (PCL,PC)
Braae K (PCL)
Butler AT (PCL)
Gochin R (PT,PCL,PC)
Henning LM (PCL)

1977 Smith IR (PCL)

1979 Robinson EW (PCL)
Shapiro IB (PCL)

Vos LI (PCL)
Major Subject Distinctions
Pharmacy (P)
Chemistry (C)
Pharmaceutics (PT)
Pharmacology (PCL)
Pharmaceutical Chemistry (PC)

BPharm 1980 -

1980 Cock AJ
Cumming ML
Dunstan NG
Titley PS

1981 Walker SM

1982 Taylor SV

1983 Anderson AN
Field AJ
Kola I
Smith EW

1985 Ashworth T
D'Hofman de Villiers DM
Salter GS

1985 - 2015

Stanley SMR

1986 Bachelor CA
Claassens T
Magnuson D
Nell JA
van der Westhuisen FM

1987 Denton LC
Lindsay LD

1988 Clayton ML

1989 Whittaker DV

1990 Black RA

1992 Hooper GJ
Krug BC

1993 Baxter MC

1994 Lalloo AK

1995 Nagar BD

Wagner C

1997 Fourie J
Selgel AT

1998 Toogood BR

1999 Claassens C
Verner JJ

2000 Rockeliffe N

2004 Chamboko BV
Mollet H
Palvie SM

2005 Cassim L
Chalava FA
Jain G
Muller AC

2006 Afolayan AF
Scheepers MW

Degree with Distinction

2007 Amoo MA
Becker RG
Bosch C
Majekwana VJ
Mundia SM
Vushemasimba A

2008 Jehangeer AW
Jina A
Joomun S
Lines M
Maredza M
Premji NBM
Sachikonye TC

2009 Barford KL
Ganiwalla SI
Jhundo HD
Ma ter MG
Moodley M

2010 Magnus L
Munedzimwe TC

2011 Fakee J

Gibbs S-A
Moeller KV

2012 Mafundikwa K
Mukozhwa S
Munda K
Mutotera K

2013 Fakir SI
Tichwangana NY

2014 Kativhu RP
Masakusi P
Matsikidze BT
Noll SC
Okeyo ILA

2015 Chikukwa MIR
Chlwana F
Kima TM
Kangansaru ST
Marimwe C
Ranehloh J

2016 -

2016 Essa S
Lunga MJ
Marekera FS
Melamane S
Musakana TG
Shaik N

2017 Astier ALP
Bagrath P
Bobbins AC
Hosen Y
Keeche P
Mapfumo C
Mbutho PSE
Naidoo C
Naidoo S
Naidu H
Onago JO
Thwala BN

2018 Badal SJ
Bhoora A

2018 Bowker MA
Cassim J
Chanakira EZ
Chirindo RE
Flax LM
Toudlotis S
Gani KB
Govender D
Jacobs CT
Lai HJ
Maharaj N
Mandava TT
Moodley O
Murahwa RA
Naidoo V
Ngongo ZP
Rajah BJ
Scheepers C
Schnabe GR
Sunker K

2019 Boodhoo P
Cox D

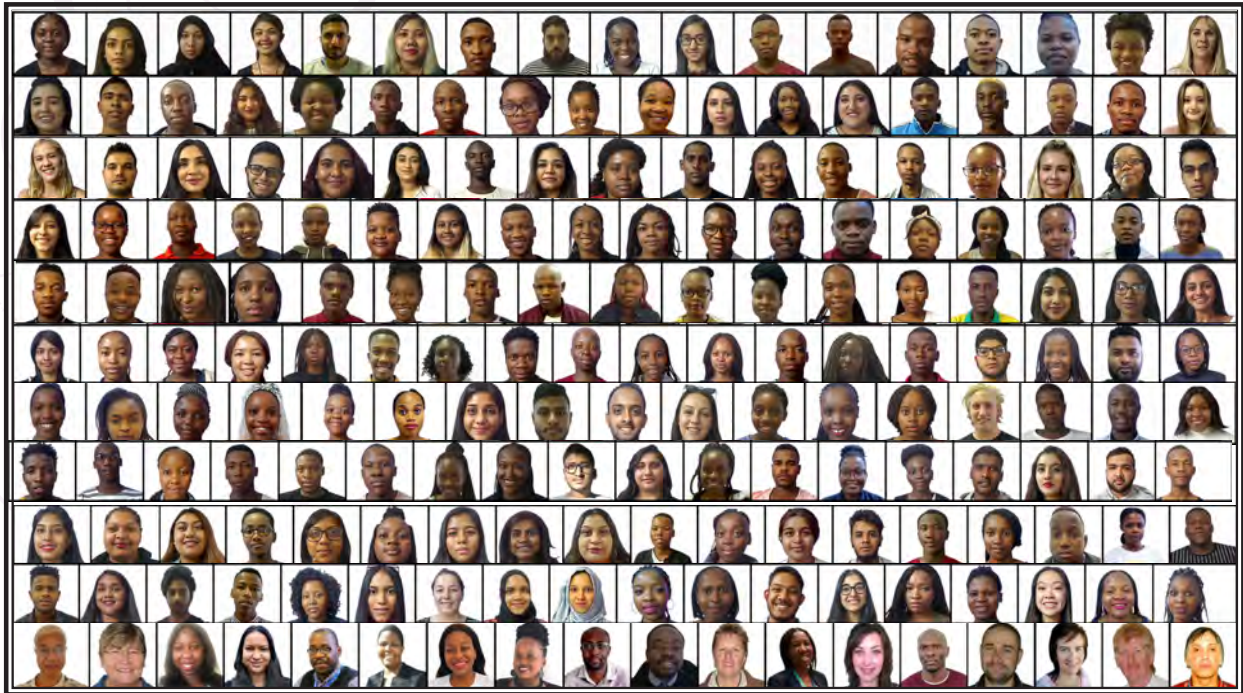
2019 Daya M
Dhege CT
Durgahee A
Hlekwayo LS
Jaunky CD
Jeewa M
Jonhera SJ
Kanyangarara VS
Mamode Ally R
Mbawuli Z
Singh M

2020 Chibanda AP
Cohen S
Fourie DH
King C
Maclarty NJ
Mager NK
Mavuso AF
Singh S

Final-year class of 2021



RHODES UNIVERSITY PHARMACY FINAL-YEAR CLASS 2021



- Top row D. Ajani, T. Ally, Z. Asmal, A. Baboolall, A. Badat, A. Bansee, L. Beje, A. Beni, Z. Bezana, T. Bishunath, S. Buthelezi, L. Cele, A. Chavalala, E. Chiminyah, S. Chonco, A. Cibi, L. Coetzee, K. Deenanath, R. Dhaja, T. Dhlwayo, U. Dowlut, Q. Dukada, Z. Fileyo, T. Gaboitaoletwe, T. Gatyeni, M. Gcaza, O. Gema, T. Gopi, T. Gore, P. Govender, C. Gumede, S. Gumede, S. Gunuza, S. Gxididi, I. Hadjiphilippou
- Second row D. Heathcote, D. Heunis, M. Ismail, Y. Ismail, J. Jack, A. Jagemath, L. Jimana, H. Joosub, C. Kaitire, M. Kaliyan, D. Kalwne, O. Katshaza, J. Khoza, A. Khutswane, F. Knoetze, A. Kuretu, N. Laloo
- Third row P. Laloo, N. Lebesa, T. Lobese, S. Lunqe, L. Mabika, L. Madide, A. Maharaj, L. Makhubeni, Z. Makhubu, T. Makuro, L. Mantsie, M. Marotola, W. Masango, K. Mashamanda, Mathebula, N. Mathunjwa, R. Maume, T. Mazongonda
- Fourth row S. Mbele, K. Mdeleleni, V. Mgxobane, A. Mhlauli, S. Mhlongo, Y. Mhlongo, A. Mkabile, M. Mkhwanazi, N. Mlindi, S. Mndini, N. Mngomezulu, A. Mogale, S. Molebatse, J. Molepo, C. Moodley, K. Moodley, M. Moodley
- Fifth row T. Moodley, M. Mothobi, H. Moyo, C. Mpakati, B. Mphaka, K. Mpofo, S. Mponela, B. Mponshane, L. Msibi, B. Mtetwa, O. Mthakathi, L. Mtshali, N. Muchenje, M. Mudau, N. Hanif Muhammad, A. Mungati, T. Munsamy, A. Murau
- Sixth row M. Mutetwa, N. Mutsau, C. Mwase, N. Mwenye, O. Mxhosana, A. Myeni, C. Naidoo, K. Naidoo, K. Naidu, C. Naude, Z. Ndebele, T. Ndurno, S. Ndzala, J. Neil, S. Ngcobo, M. Ngqandu, T. Nhau
- Seventh row S. Nkurnane, L. Nocakana, N. Nomarne, L. Notsolo, L. Ntagana, A. Ntingashe, C. Ntshanga, E. Ntondini, S. Nundkishore, K. Nundlal, C. Nyanhete, Z. Nyembezi, B. Nzuzza, E. Ojo, C. Olavan, S. Panday, M. Paruk, T. Pfidze
- Eighth row A. Pillay, C. Pillay, K. Pillay, S. Plaatjie, D. Praves, N. Qoza, N. Raju, M. Rarnballi, R. Rarnpath Persad, A. Saba, N. Seabela, A. Shaik, W. Shaikjee, L. Shamase, S. Shelerbe, N. Sibuyi, S. Sifci, E. Simba, M. Simelane, D. Singh, S. Siva Subramonian, S. Skritshi, N. Soko, T. Sookoo, J. Spilhaus, K. Sularnan, Z. Suleman, A. Thusi, Y. Titus, Y. Vahed, K. Yallabh, T. Vilakati, N. Vithi, C. Yip, N. Zilwa, T. Zulu
- Ninth row M. Simelane, D. Singh, S. Siva Subramonian, S. Skritshi, N. Soko, T. Sookoo, J. Spilhaus, K. Sularnan, Z. Suleman, A. Thusi, Y. Titus, Y. Vahed, K. Yallabh, T. Vilakati, N. Vithi, C. Yip, N. Zilwa, T. Zulu
- Tenth row Ms L. Allan, Prof. S. Burton, Ms F. Chiwanza, Ms T. Dukhan, Prof. D. Khanye, Mrs C. Magadza, Ms G. Ngodwane, Dr N. Ngqwala, Dr P. Makoni, Prof. S. Khamanga (Head and Dean), Dr C. Oltmann (Deputy Dean), Prof. M. Mothibe, Ms N. Paterson, Dr N. Sibiya, Prof. R. Tandlich, Sr L. van Dyk, Prof. R. Walker, Dr Harold Walsh
- Staff Ms L. Allan, Prof. S. Burton, Ms F. Chiwanza, Ms T. Dukhan, Prof. D. Khanye, Mrs C. Magadza, Ms G. Ngodwane, Dr N. Ngqwala, Dr P. Makoni, Prof. S. Khamanga (Head and Dean), Dr C. Oltmann (Deputy Dean), Prof. M. Mothibe, Ms N. Paterson, Dr N. Sibiya, Prof. R. Tandlich, Sr L. van Dyk, Prof. R. Walker, Dr Harold Walsh
- Absent B. Hlomuka, U. Malangeni, K. Mapfumo, N. Mazibuko, A. Rawat, S. Yacoob

Final-year class of 2022



RHODES UNIVERSITY PHARMACY FINAL YEAR CLASS 2022



- Back Row:** Y. Sopapaza, S. Clay, S. Mndebele, M. Mjoli, M. Mthembu, N. Mqadi, F. Makuwatsine, A. Singh, N. Sam, S. Adam, A. Mothilall, S. Sandi, E. Mkofo, C. Mbongwa, S. Neube, J. Mohai, T. Lukhna, C. Naicker, T. Madziwa, M. Pillay, A. Miyobile, M. Parbulall, K. Ramoroka, A. Mthi, C. Petersen, P. Chetty, S. Dhoda.
- 5th Row:** S. Geolotela, N. Ngwira, W. Tsawe, M. Bera, M. Banda, T. Mathopa, I. Muchato, J. Moodley, N. Makiyi, N. Samuels, A. Kokatay, A. Mpatane, M. Mashego, A. Nyandoro, J. Frieslaar, S. Mbanga, L. Makhabeni, L. Mbambosi, P. Ndagurwa, A. Mgadi, N. Mphahlele, K. Tyolo, N. Sulwana, M. Dlamini, K. Mhlongo, G. Nxumalo, K. Dzangare, J. Mbofana.
- 4th Row:** M. Sha, G. Gengan, N. Ntlawuzana, L. Naicker, T. Joseph, J. Naicker, M. Mponshane, S. Raselemane, R. Mnembe, H. Ndlovu, D. Kanda, A. Sibanda, D. Simasiku, A. Balqiyi, R. Klopstra, S. Roberts, J. Mthimkhulu, M. Methula, N. Dabengwa, L. Akwa, K. Naicker, W. Gumede, T. Dauwa, N. Nsiband, S. Dlodla, P. Khanyeza, N. Mzolo, Z. Ntsomi, A. Naicker.
- 3rd Row:** F. Shangase, E. Govindsamy, T. Simelane, N. Govender, A. Mnyandu, W. Washonganyika, B. Manina, R. Naidoo, M. Govender, L. Monyatsiwa, C. Simelane, S. Ndaba, G. Lembethe, P. Makgabo, K. Mokoatedi, M. Naicker, M. Kgatla, S. Magwenyana, Z. Dyoda, G. Moses, L. Jozi, N. Mlindi, U. Vumisa, T. Moyo, V. Ndlazi, S. Govuza, T. Ndumo, S. Maphanga, K. Reddy, P. Munsamy.
- 2nd Row:** A. Cibi, H. Gwaxula, Y. Mahesh, N. Machipisa, V. Moodley, E. Hoko, K. Fitz, N. Mpti, H. Lai, S. Mogale, K. Sanyu, H. Van Sencie, R. Sande, T. Sithole, B. Ngwenya, S. Matshidiso, S. Singh, N. Zola, N. Hadebe, B. Stucky, T. Lovemore, S. Vambe, L. Nkumanda, M. Potgieter, A. Neil, K. Matshingana, N. Khoza, A. Maseko, S. Memela, A. Nguse, L. Chipombo, K. Makhwatha, N. Mthembu, J. Murrariy.
- Front Row:** Mr P. Makoni, Prof R. Walker, Ms L. Allan, Dr L. Goosen, Mrs C. Magadza, Ms T. Dukhan, Mrs U. Sibanda, Dr N. Sibiya, Prof S. Khamanga, Dr C. Oltmann, Dr D. Khanye, Mr G. Purcell, Mrs L. Van Dyk, Ms G. Ngodwane, Mrs M. Purcell, Mrs N. Paterson.

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And, again, we are delighted to have received several emails from our past students, now in various parts of the world. Thank you for your contact, and thank you also for having addressed your emails to me rather than to ‘The Editor’ – a personalised touch that I appreciate.

Emeritus Professor John Haigh has again performed – meticulously – the task of proof-reading the *Pharmacy Review* and has, again, declined my offer of a bottle of wine for doing so. (As a widely-recognised wine-lover and connoisseur perhaps he doesn’t trust my rather pedestrian taste in wine.) Seriously, thank you John. Other colleagues – the Dean, and Dr Carmen Oltmann, and my wife, Dr Sally-Ann Robertson – assisted with wineless stints of proof-reading. (As previously, they weren’t offered any.) Many thanks to all of you.

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Sirion Robertson, Editor

