



RHODES UNIVERSITY

Where leaders learn



FACULTY OF PHARMACY

2009 – 2019





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Faculty of Pharmacy

2009 – 2019

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Front cover photograph Sirion Robertson

Part of the Rhodes University campus and the Chemical and Pharmaceutical Sciences building seen from the 1820 Settlers' Monument. Inset: The Chemical and Pharmaceutical Sciences Building.

Back cover photograph Sirion Robertson

The first cases of COVID-19 were reported in December 2019, and the pandemic has disrupted global activity throughout 2020. We will report on how it has affected Rhodes University and the Pharmacy Faculty in our 2020 Review.

More than 100 vaccines are in development, and some are expected to be available early in 2021. This photograph shows a vial of MMR vaccine. There are grounds for believing this preparation of three attenuated viruses may confer some degree of para-specific protection against COVID-19.

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from the editor



The Dean, Professor Sandile Khamanga, has asked me to prepare a catch-up Review of the Faculty, for the period 2009 to the end of 2019. The Faculty's last Annual Review appeared in 2008. Prior to that, it was published each year since 1988.

The unreviewed ten-year hiatus was a period marked by various changes, and a degree of 'managed turbulence' ascribable to several factors within and beyond the University. It was partly due to this constellation of circumstances that the review disappeared from the annual cycle of events.

I am pleased to have been asked to fill the gap with this reappearance of the Review.

In 2008 Professor Rod Walker was Head and Dean of the Faculty. He stood down from this position in 2015, and Professor George Wells, of the Department of Computer Science, was appointed Acting Head and Dean of Pharmacy. He served in this capacity for two years, after which time a returning alumnus, Professor Santy Daya, took up the position of Head and Dean of the Faculty. He retired at the beginning of 2019, and Professor Khamanga took up the reins of office. We wish him well.

On the wider University stage, at the time of our last Review Dr Saleem Badat was the Executive Head (Vice-Chancellor) of Rhodes. He remained in office until 2014, when Dr Sizwe Mabizela, our current Head, was appointed to the position.

Prior to the decade now under review, the life of the University might retrospectively be seen as a comparatively halcyon phase in its 100-plus year life. (Rhodes celebrated its centenary in 2004.) Much of the turbulence recently experienced in South African universities, as elsewhere in the country, is a consequence of fundamental changes actualised in the last decade of the 20th century. The effects of these changes will be reverberating through all facets of our national life for decades to come. There is general agreement that the academic enterprise in modern South Africa makes a variety of demands on its practitioners, not all of which are appropriate to the functions of a university. This is perhaps inevitable, given the long history of constraints and imbalances in the country, but it remains to be seen whether these non-ideal circumstances will resolve into an equitable and stable situation within the universities.

The verdict of history on these times will be interesting. (Not that any of us will be there to read the definitive accounts. History does not give its verdicts in short-order, like our end-of-year exam results.) At the present stage it must surely be said that we have gained a great deal, both in reality and potentiality. Horizons have been widened, opportunities multiplied and expanded. But challenges too have proliferated and grown in scale and complexity. The long-awaited socio-political freedoms are still in their protracted and difficult infancy. We are guaranteed *a* future, but there is no guarantee about what the future will be in its particulars, and, whatever our wishes,

there is no guarantee that circumstances will be stable or congenial.

South Africa, with much of the world, is overpopulated, and the population continues to rise, like a juggernaut, or a pot that is overboiling because the heat hasn't been turned down. Acknowledging and responding intelligently to this local and global problem is a major challenge for the future. It is one we have not yet engaged with adequately.

In the years ahead the role of our universities will continue to be significant – perhaps even pivotal. But the universities will not be able to lead the Country satisfactorily unless they have the right sorts and amounts of independence and support from government and from the general population. As the philosopher/mathematician Bertrand Russell said, many years ago, 'Academic institutions, useful as they are, are not adequate guardians of the interests of civilization in a world where everyone outside their walls is too busy for unutilitarian pursuits'.¹ Unfortunately, what is 'the right sort' of support is not a matter on which there is unanimity, and neither is there consensus within and among the universities themselves as to policies, procedures and goals. Our heterogeneous society remains deeply riven on even the most fundamental principles of advancement, and democracy cannot be relied upon as a strong and healthy guiding hand.

Fortunately, the Faculty of Pharmacy, like the Faculty of Science – to which, at Rhodes, it has

its strongest affiliation – is concerned largely with empirically-based matters of 'scientific fact'. This grounding and compass bearing gives fewer opportunities for ideologically-based argument than are found – indeed actively pursued – in some other areas of study. This of course is not to say that ethics is unimportant in or absent from the pharmacy curriculum. What is important is that the ethical foundations on which pharmacy rests are sufficiently 'axiomatic' as to allow of very little dissent as to what should and shouldn't be done under the umbrella of the profession. Pharmacists and medical practitioners carry, in metaphor, an 'international passport'. It transcends all political boundaries. To earn and be worthy of this high status is a noble challenge, both for students and teachers of the profession.

[A note on style: There is a convention that editors and royalty use the first-person plural – 'we'. It started, apparently, with the 12th Century English King Henry II, who believed he spoke for himself and God. The custom persists – without implying jointness with the Deity - in the more conservative parts of today's world – and, indeed, in some scientific writing. Although there is a rational basis for it, I've always seen it as a rather quaint and amusing style. I have used it here where I want to indicate that the Review is the work of a number of people, and expresses – *we* hope! – some generality of opinion. In other places I have used the ordinary form, to denote my unitary self. Not all the comments or views I express are necessarily endorsed by colleagues, the Faculty or the University.]

1 In his essay 'In Praise of Idleness' (1932).

from the head and dean



I am delighted to provide you with this report, which highlights a small sample of the wide-ranging and infinitely exciting activities of the Faculty of Pharmacy during the academic years 2009-2019. We have accomplished a great deal during these years. I hope the review will help describe the details of our progress in managing our challenges and successes.

I challenge staff going forward to ask one question: What does it mean to be a Rhodes University Faculty of Pharmacy staff member? I hope this will help unpack everyone's experiences, revealing in poignant and sometimes disheartening ways, the challenges that the Faculty faced at different times in the last decade. It is worth mentioning that the last ten years have been a period of transition. The previous deans have worked to ensure that the Faculty of Pharmacy continues to provide a deeply transformative experience, preparing undergraduates to advance knowledge, promote understanding, and serve society. They brought with them many years of experience at different levels. I have promised that I will extend my open door policy and expand on the community-building approach beyond campus. Our next direction is for the Faculty to plan on revisiting our strategic plan, establish priorities, and then set short-term, mid-range, and long-term goals.

Realising that this is not just an annual review, it is nearly impossible to capture the breadth of research and teaching advances, community engagement, honours, and the professional involvement of all the staff in the last ten years, and the other

accomplishments of an entire year. What will emerge will be highlights of the last 10 years.

The Faculty enrolment continued to grow in 2019, with a total headcount of 687, an increase on the 674 headcount of 2018. Research performance has been good with 30 Masters' students, 8 PharmD students and 16 PhD students currently registered in 2019. A total of 145 BPharm students, 1 MSc (Pharm), 3 MPharm and 2 PharmD students graduated in April 2019. About 65% of the academic staff have PhDs and three new members of staff are all registered for a PhD. The Faculty continues to provide support to students and new staff through ongoing initiatives like mentoring.

When I accepted the position of Dean of Pharmacy, I did so with the knowledge that this was a Faculty with a solid foundation and on the rise. Our Faculty's sharp upward trajectory could be seen in many academic indicators from student growth at undergraduate and postgraduate level, and success rates in the increase in our tenure track academic staff numbers in all divisions. But nowhere, perhaps, is our growth more apparent than in our Faculty research productivity. I am proud that at Rhodes University, the Faculty of Pharmacy is recognised by many students as among one of the best places to come to study pharmacy in the country. We earned this recognition in part through our excellence in learning and teaching practices; student-centred success culture; intellectually stimulating learning experiences in our outstanding faculty; having staff who engage in innovative research; and our

forward-thinking pharmacy education program. We encourage students to collaborate with each other as part of the learning process. This is seen taking the form of activities such as group work, and group based assignments. What has been key and has been fully cemented is that we have demonstrated and fostered among the classes, respect for student diversity in all its forms (e.g. religion, sexual orientation, ethnicity and cultural backgrounds) in formal teaching settings, and in the curriculum. We have adapted the pace of teaching to accommodate different learning styles, while maintaining rigour and standards. In responding to the fourth industrial revolution, we make use of information and communications technology where this will facilitate student learning.

I have been reflecting in 2019 about the journey that we have taken. To me it pleasantly captures the various connections we have in the Faculty, among scholars in research teams, with our postgraduate and undergraduates in the classroom, our community partners, and with our alumni and friends of the Faculty. I have become convinced that it is these connections that are central to our mission, and we have not fully taken advantage of them in the last decade. As we, as academics, seek to understand some of the challenges that we face in this decade, strengthening this connection will allow us to be stronger in our curricula offering and global stature. As you will see with this ten-year review, we want to spend time in strengthening these connections. Through these connections we strive to enrich the meaningful experiences of our large undergraduate student body.

Current health care professional shortages and the struggling financial challenges of many states, nations, and global economies challenge us all to remain mentally healthy and ensure a healthy community. As Dean of the Faculty, I am committed to lead this Faculty for health professionals to excel in all aspects of the academic enterprise – education and practice. Our aim is to offer the most innovative approaches to pharmacy education, including clinical simulation with interactive high fidelity mannequins, and to go paperless where we can and when appropriate.

Our two highest priorities are supporting the critical research mission of our Faculty and ensuring that all of our students, postgraduate and

undergraduate, receive the best education possible.

What is key for us is to spend hours evaluating our progress on the goals that we set out to achieve, testing to see if our vision still resonates with our stakeholders, and setting our direction for the next few years. While it has not been published yet, I am delighted to give you a sneak preview of what I want to share:

- Foster targeted collaborative research
- Be driven by our mission for patients and many communities

In the last 10 years, the Faculty has welcomed very bright, talented, and passionate groups of students who are preparing to be the future leaders of health care. Our message has always been constant throughout: *Capitalise on the opportunity that lies before you at university to challenge your thinking and imagine the possibilities!* When I addressed the first-year students last year, I mentioned that they are privileged to be part of an academic Faculty comprising of dedicated members of staff. What is important, is that I impress at all levels that they must push themselves to consider different perspectives beyond those that they are comfortable or familiar with. The power of every student's experience lies in the educational immersion being offered to them over the course of the four years at this Faculty.

Our Faculty seeks to educate health professionals who will be prepared to meet the healthcare needs of South Africa, SADC, Africa and the citizens of the world who live beyond our borders. We also seek to learn from each other by valuing and respecting the diversity of the hundreds of students who come from different parts of the country, cultures, perspectives and experiences in healthcare, and health behaviours.

The student numbers reports released annually show just how far we have come in the past 10 years. These truly remarkable numbers display what I knew walking into the job – that there is an active, dedicated group of staff members. This kind of success is not achieved by individuals alone; this kind of success can only be the result of dedicated teams working together, sharing a common goal and commitment to addressing some of the most pressing health concerns of our times. The research themes in our Faculty indicate that we are tackling health issues as diverse as drug discovery, disaster management, health literacy, health

policy, drug development and formulation, topical dermatological formulation, dermatokinetics, environmental contaminants, and much more. From state-of-the-art research laboratory and teaching facilities, abundant opportunities are available for our students to interact with academic staff who are passionate about teaching, research, and community engagement.

The Faculty has much to offer in terms of student-centred support and nurturing: there is a high number of postgraduate students, who serve as tutors, who are ready to help undergraduate students. We emphasise student engagement in active, self-directed learning and through community engagement. Our students are encouraged to evaluate existing and new evidence-based practices, to contribute to growing scientific knowledge bases, and to expand their critical thinking skills in an effort to respond to the rapid changes of 21st-century health care delivery within complex environments. Simultaneously, students are encouraged to develop innovative, creative, caring, and evidence-based approaches, in every facet of delivering services.

My vision and plan for the next 3 years is to ensure that we improve our educational and curriculum offerings to be more effective. The Faculty provides a distinctive, rigorous and well-rounded education, and our location in the heart of the city of Makhanda promises ample opportunity for exposure to primary health that comes with a rural setting. Moreover, you can expect excellence from our academic staff and will be in elite company among our academically talented students who come from all over Africa. Whether through the BPharm programme of study or in rigorous postgraduate studies, our dedicated faculty and committed students have created a truly vibrant academic environment that is waiting for all new students. What I believe and stand for includes the following:

- Every student who comes to study pharmacy deserves a caring, competent, and effective lecturer.
- Equally so, every effective lecturer must be supported by an effective leader. In doing so, I have maintained that the Faculty should be staffed by competent academic and support staff.

Going forward, I am of the view that we must be engaged in leading-edge research that can be

directly translated into effective practices. This also means that we work to disseminate the best practices both locally and internationally.

In a highly competitive research environment, this success translates into a host of benefits that go beyond individual researchers. It means many more undergraduate students will be given opportunities to gain hands-on experience in research laboratories, and thus gain their first steps in exploring careers in public health and health sciences. Despite this potential for shaping the future, postgraduate funding still remains a challenge and that has been a constant limiting factor. Our strategic areas of excellence in scholarship have been identified in our strategic plan. We are committed to recruiting and supporting a diverse faculty, staff, and student body. We work tirelessly to provide our students with a distinctive learning experience that is academically rigorous and creates opportunities for meaningful engagement on campus, and in the community.

To all our students who graduated in the last 10 years, your success continues to bring great joy and satisfaction to us as we see you already emerging as leaders and mentors to one another and to many of our students who do internship and community service at different places. The links you provide to the academic and social environment for many Rhodes University graduate students is invaluable. As always, the Dean's Office, and our staff, are here to support you as you continue to grow as clinicians, pharmaceutical scientists and health care leaders!

I offer you a message drawn from the work of Chinua Achebe, in his book, "Things Fall Apart": On a macroscopic level, the theme is about the struggle between change and tradition. My thinking around this subject is a reaction to results of the 2015 campus climate on 'Fees must Fall', I argue that there are theoretical explanations on how, why, when, who and what campus is like in 2020. I ask you to be mindful of the privilege you have been given by the support of your family and friends and the commitment of your faculty to learn. Secondly, remain authentic and genuine in your thinking, and engage with mutual respect and positive regard, and you will experience true fulfilment in your educational endeavours and or work/life balance.

I want to extend my congratulations to our Faculty for the banner - 10 years in teaching and learning, research and community engagement – and for continuing to make such a positive impact on the world around us. I feel very fortunate to lead this Faculty with its cadre of extraordinarily talented faculty and staff. Hopefully, many other students will consider joining us at the beautiful campus in Makhandha.

Curricular revisions

In terms of curriculum development and in line with the Institutional Transformation Plan, students are integral to curriculum development processes. New elective courses have been designed and taught by senior academic staff. The range of electives available and their impact on pharmacy education will be realised in the near future. These are speciality-specific electives and an assortment of other miscellaneous electives. All the electives were universally well received by students. All the electives contribute to both the professional and personal development of the students in specific areas of interest outside of the standard curriculum. It is worth reporting that the programme leading to the PharmD degree in its current form is being phased out. There are a few candidates (pipeline students) in the programme currently and they have until the end of the year to complete the degree.

Enrolment

For the past 10 years we have experienced explosive enrolment growth in the Faculty of Pharmacy. The availability of and access to teaching and learning resources are things that we consider. Student academic preparation, effort and motivation are equally important in determining learning outcomes. Access, retention, engagement, interaction, motivation and effectiveness of our academic and support staff are parameters that we constantly monitor. We still maintain a strong postgraduate enrolment of about 60 students in the MSc (Pharm), MPharm, PhD and PharmD programmes.

Transformation

2018-2019 was a very active year for recruitment in the Faculty of Pharmacy. In 2020 we are intellectually stronger and more diverse than ever before. The Faculty of Pharmacy considers faculty diversity to be one of its highest priorities, and we have recently made significant progress in

this area. In the last three years, the faculty made more external offers to women. The percentage of offers to women has steadily increased each year. We are encouraged by all of these outcomes and will persist in our efforts to reinforce the best practices during the faculty search process. We hope to build upon our recent success and continue to diversify and strengthen our faculty in the coming years.

Promotions

The Faculty of Pharmacy is deeply committed to a tenure track system, and promotion rates have remained strong in recent years with all divisions having at least one professor or associate professor in the division. This is in line with the Institutional Development Plan's strategic objectives to increase the number of postgraduate students and to improve the qualifications of academic staff.

Infrastructure

The aging facilities in the Faculty of Pharmacy potentially will present multiple challenges in the near future. The university has committed that the Pharmaceutical and Chemical Sciences building that houses the Faculty of Pharmacy will be re-furbished in the next twelve months. One would therefore imagine that this process will take at a minimum about eighteen months. Here we refer to research and teaching spaces including laboratories. As you are all aware, laboratory facilities are complex, technically sophisticated, and mechanically intensive. Constructing or renovating them requires careful planning guided by an experienced design professional. During the planning and construction phases, a great number of decisions will have to be made. To ensure a rigorous decision-making process, formal lines of communication and authority among all the stakeholders in the building have been established early in the planning stages. The refurbishment will take place when all occupants have evacuated the building, and we are in the process of finding our possible new home (temporary). We believe that we are going to have a modern space with state of the art lecture venues and laboratories.

I want to close by offering my gratitude to our faculty, students, and staff, for their dedication and commitment that allows us to continue to stand. You will see in this report evidence of excellence in research, teaching, community engagement, professional involvement, leadership, and

mentoring, that fosters connections within our university and across our country and the world. I would like to express my gratitude to all of you who have contributed to this report. Finally, I want to close by thanking everyone this year for their assistance as I learned the ropes in the Dean's office.

I look forward to sharing our new strategic framework with you, but in the meantime, as always, I invite you to keep in touch with the Faculty, *alma mater*, throughout the year through Twitter and Facebook which will be launched in 2020. Please join in the conversation and keep us up-to-date on your own successes and stories, whether they are on the bench, at the bedside, or in the classroom.

I hope you are as proud as I am of what we continue to accomplish in spite of the real-world challenges that intrude on our primary mission

of teaching and scholarship. We are fortunate to teach, mentor, and advise our extraordinary students, and I could not imagine working with a better group of faculty and staff.

Thank you to everyone who contributed to the creation of this ten-year review, and to Dr Sirion Robertson, our communications coordinator and editor, who managed this project from start to finish.

I look forward to an exciting year to come, with the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead. I remain optimistic about the future because of my excellent colleagues in our Faculty. Your commitment to your research and our students inspires me every day.

Professor Sandile Khamanga
Dean and Head



The University's clock tower. This photograph was taken at about 17:20. For several years there has been talk of giving the clock a new motor.

(Five tower clocks can be seen from Gunfire Hill. All of them show different times, none correct. In fairness, though, the Rhodes clock, at least, isn't working at all, so nothing can be expected of it.)

reports from deans 2009-2018



Professor Rod Walker

Dean: 2008–2015



It is a pleasure to provide this contribution to a long-overdue review of the activities of the Faculty of Pharmacy. I became Dean of the Faculty in 2008 after serving as Deputy Dean, under the leadership of Professor Izzy Kanfer, for the period 2000 - 2007 during which time the Faculty grew in size and strength, particularly in terms of research productivity and visibility. I was promoted to full Professor in 2007 and took on the mantle of Dean of the Faculty. We were in a strong position with a stable and experienced staff complement. The expectation of the university was that as Dean of the Faculty of Pharmacy the incumbent was to not only take on the expanded role of Dean as envisaged by Dr Saleem Badat, the then Vice-Chancellor, but to also continue with research and teaching activities. I took on this challenging role and continued to support the trajectory that had been started by Professor Kanfer, and was fortunate to be supported by an excellent Deputy Dean, Dr Carmen Oltmann, without whom I would not have coped.

One of the biggest challenges I faced during my tenure was the fact that many senior academic and technical staff retired, and replacement of such staff became the focus of much of my activities and it is only now in 2020 that the staff complement has started to stabilise². During this period, undergraduate class sizes increased substantially and student demographics changed to better reflect our country. During my tenure, substantial revision of the Bachelor of Pharmacy

curriculum was undertaken and the revised version was implemented in 2013. Concurrently with this, a major part of my time was spent dealing with an unpleasant disciplinary matter which was to become a disruptive factor in the Faculty, the fallout of which took a number of years to dissipate.

We were fortunate, as a Faculty, to have access to an infrastructure and efficiency grant during my tenure that facilitated the purchase of new teaching equipment and the refurbishment of space for use as a Quality Control Laboratory. Access to a Clinical Training Skills Development grant from the Department of Education permitted the refurbishment of space into a teaching facility that houses a dispensary, a 4-bed hospital ward and numerous pieces of equipment, and enabled us to employ two staff members who contribute to the advancement of clinical skills development.

Notwithstanding the issues faced, the successes gained ensured that the Faculty was on a sound footing when I stood down in 2015. After having served almost eight years as Dean, I stepped back feeling the Faculty was in as strong a position as I could have left it in. Leading in an academic institution is a daunting task and is not without trials and tribulations. I am particularly proud of my tenure and accept that I made some mistakes and could have done certain things differently, but then hindsight is always 20:20. I am pleased to be

² If you browse through the timeline you'll get an idea of the instability to which Prof Walker alludes. Ed.

able to continue to support the Faculty through my activities in research and teaching.

During my tenure as Dean (2008-2015) I was active on many university committees and I was fortunate to be appointed by the Minister of Health to serve on the South African Pharmacy Council from January 2014 to October 2018, during which time I was Chair of the Education Committee and a member of the Executive Committee of Council. I enjoyed my time serving the profession and hope that my contribution was meaningful and inspired changes that strengthened the profession. I was honoured in 2019 to be the first Academic Pharmacist to be recognised by being awarded a Pioneer Award at the South African Pharmacy Council Conference held at the Sun City Resort. I also represent Rhodes University as an elected member of the Board of Directors of the Varsity Sports Company.

From an academic perspective, it has been my contribution to research that has been most rewarding, and during the time since becoming Dean I have successfully supervised or co-supervised seven PhD and thirty MSc graduates, and have authored or co-authored fifty published papers. A further two PhD candidates are awaiting the outcome of the examination process. I am particularly proud that the current Dean of Pharmacy is a PhD graduate of mine, and that another is Head of Department of Pharmacy at the University of Zambia, whilst several others are playing meaningful roles in a variety of industries including the pharmaceutical, and food and beverage sectors. I am currently supervising or co-supervising a further fifteen MSc and PhD

candidates. The role that students play in our development must not be forgotten.

I have been tremendously lucky to have been mentored by Professor Kanfer, initially as a postgraduate student and then as a Deputy Dean and I thank him for his support during my academic career. I would also like to acknowledge the role that Professors Haigh, Potgieter (late), Daya, Dowse, Glass, Wilson and Doctors Oltmann, Smith and Skinner (late) played in my development as an academic at Rhodes University. One cannot forget the important contributions of the technical staff to our success and I acknowledge Leon Purdon, the late Collin Nontyi [See obituary note later in the Review, Ed.] Dave and Sally Morley, Linda Emslie and Tanya Kent for all they did for our Faculty. More recently my interactions with Professor Khamanga, Ms Paterson and Mr Makoni have allowed me to broaden my interests in additional areas of Pharmaceutics and allowed our research group and endeavours to expand. Without such colleagues, this much would certainly not have been possible.

In closing, I would like to thank the University for the opportunities and support that were provided and ensured the Faculty maintained its high-profile academic status nationally and remained integral to the ongoing success of Rhodes University. The current contribution of pharmacy, as a flagship Faculty, cannot be ignored by the institution operating in a Higher Education system that continues to evolve and challenge all university staff in South Africa. I wish the current leadership of the Faculty and the University every success in the future. We are in good hands.

Professor George Wells

Acting Dean: September 2015–December 2016



It was a great honour to be asked to step in as Acting Dean by the University Executive while the search for a new Dean was conducted. That was a daunting task for a Computer Scientist, and following Prof. Rod Walker's many years of faithful service to the Faculty as Dean. One of my first actions was to establish a Faculty Management Team, with the heads of the four divisions and the Faculty Manager, to see to the day-to-day business of running the Faculty. That worked very well, providing a strong platform for leadership in the Faculty and for keeping channels of communication open.

The timing of my appointment was far from ideal as that period was marked by several student protest actions (Fees Must Fall in 2015, and again in 2016, and the "reference list" protests of 2016). This involved all the Deans in lengthy meetings, and in extended negotiations with the protestors. It also required a considerable focus on ensuring that the final-year exams went ahead uninterrupted in order to ensure that graduating students could complete their degrees successfully and go on to start their internships in January the following year.

Another major task in 2016 was rolling out the final year of the new curriculum that had been introduced some years previously. The key step in this was the introduction of the Pharmacotherapy course in the fourth-year. This required recruiting an experienced lecturer who could manage the introduction of this course as a practical, team-based capstone to the BPharm degree.

Other challenges revolved around staffing, most notably addressing the need to fill several long-standing vacancies. The most important vacancy of all was, of course, the position of Dean, and the search for a new, permanent Dean was ongoing for most of my tenure. Fortunately, we had an excellent opportunity to entice Prof. Santy Daya back to Rhodes, and into the position of Dean of Pharmacy, which he assumed from January 2017.

While this assignment was the most challenging of my time at Rhodes, it was also very fulfilling, and I thoroughly enjoyed my interactions with the staff and students of the Faculty of Pharmacy. The opportunity to learn more about the disciplines that comprise Pharmacy, and to develop a much deeper understanding of a single-department Faculty, with stringent regulatory requirements, was a great privilege.

Professor Santy Daya

Dean: 2017–2018

I left my position at Rhodes University in 2009 as Head of Pharmacology to take up an appointment at Ross University School of Medicine, an American Medical School in the Bahamas, where I taught Pharmacology and Medical Biochemistry. After five years there I moved to the main campus on the beautiful island of Dominica where I stayed for another three years, while also spending time teaching at our Miami campus.

In December 2017 I left my position as Professor of Medical Biochemistry and Pharmacology at Ross University School of Medicine to return home to Grahamstown, where I was appointed as Head and Dean of the Faculty of Pharmacy at Rhodes University in January 2018. It was wonderful to join the Faculty once again - especially with colleagues for whom I had prepared practical classes as a lab technician when they were students in the 1980s, and those colleagues to whom I had lectured pharmacology when they were undergraduates. It was also an honour to work with former Deans of the faculty who gave me valuable advice. In April of the same year we began our preparations for the Pharmacy Council



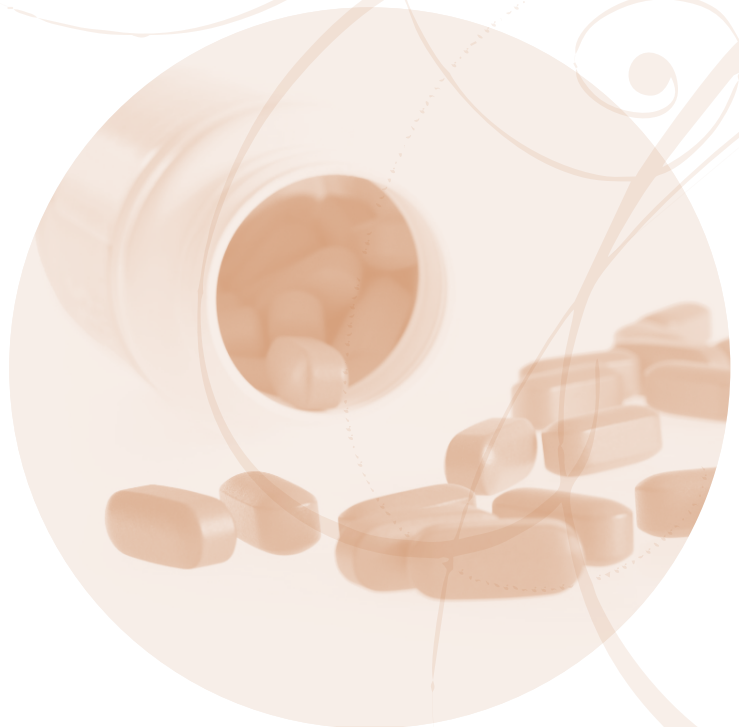
Professor Santy and Mrs Jiya Daya with their daughter, Misha, and son, Bhavik, at a joint celebration of Santy's birthday and the opening of their Grahamstown House of Curries.

Accreditation, due to take place in September. The staff made a magnificent team effort in ensuring success. During my time as Dean, we introduced an annual White Coat Ceremony to instil professional awareness among the students, we acquired a TurningPoint clicker system to obtain real-time student responses, and we introduced a new course – Research Methodology – in the final year, amongst other changes. During this time I also delivered lectures in pharmacology and pathophysiology. We were able to fill several vacant positions in the Faculty and staff continued to publish and to train Masters and PhD students. After spending two years as Dean I yearned for life in the Caribbean once again and re-joined Ross University – this time at their new location on the island of Barbados.

Before my departure, my wonderful wife and I decided to pursue our common passion and open an Indian restaurant, House of Curry*, which has already made its mark in Grahamstown. Both of my children graduated this year, my son Bhavik who is a medical doctor and my daughter Misha who is a Pharmacy graduate from Rhodes.

* Here it is! (The photograph was taken on a Sunday. During the week it's a hive of activity.) The food is superb. (Independent comment by the Editor, not trying to curry favour.)

reports from divisions



Division of Pharmaceutical Chemistry

Head of division: Professor David Khanye

Previous heads of division since 2009: Dr Denzil Beukes,
Professor Roman Tandlich, Dr Leonie Goosen.

Between 2010 and the present day, the Division of Pharmaceutical Chemistry has undergone major changes on several fronts. Firstly, major staff changes took place with two Heads of Division moving on to other institutions and one former Head going into permanent retirement. The new staff complement formed over several years and currently stabilised at two senior lecturers and two associate professors. Dr. Goosen was awarded the 2014 Vice-Chancellor's Senior Distinguished Teaching Award. Professors Tandlich and Khanye launched new research areas, viz. disaster management in healthcare, and an early drug discovery programme focusing on diseases (malaria, human African trypanosomiasis, schistosomiasis and tuberculosis) prevalent in the developing world. Dr. Ngqwala led the Environmental Health and Biotechnology Research group to the 2019 Rhodes University Environmental Award. In addition, Dr. Ngqwala has started various consortia in the fields of social entrepreneurship and community engagement. This division has also contributed in graduating a significant number of students with Masters and PhD degrees, some of this cohort coming from historically disadvantaged backgrounds. Whilst the publication record within the division has been fluctuating, currently we are seeing an upward trend of scholarly outputs in prestigious international journals.



Division of Pharmacy Practice

Head of division: Professor Sue Burton

Previous heads of division since 2009: Dr Carmen Oltmann, Professor Sunitha Srinivas, Ms Yoland Irwin.

Pharmacy Practice is the newest division in the Pharmacy Faculty. It started when Prof Billy Futter joined the Faculty when it was called Pharmacy Administration and Practice (PAP). At the time the emphasis was on administration, management and ownership. It was also the time when Pharmaceutical Care was a relatively new philosophy of practice. More recently the Division has been renamed the Pharmacy Practice (PP) Division. Pharmaceutical Care is still our philosophy of practice, but since 2010 the emphasis of our PP curriculum is less about administration, management and ownership, and more about patient care, patient education, health education, health promotion, and clinical pharmacy. Rhodes University is a rural campus, and the Pharmacy Practice Division sees this as a strength. Although we graduate “generalists” our curriculum is based on a solid Primary Health Care foundation that should allow our graduates to practice in any

sector of pharmacy - provided they are willing to learn and solve problems while practising. We aim to graduate pharmacists who practise ethically and legally, and who will be change agents.

In 2013 we introduced our new BPharm curriculum, starting with the first year. It took four years to teach out the old curriculum. At the same time the University asked us to move practicals to mornings, and lectures to afternoons (some starting at 12:20 pm, others at 2:15pm). This was necessitated by the increasing need for large lecture venues at Rhodes University, and our increasing student numbers in the BPharm.

The Pharmacy Practice Division has seen several changes in staff over the past ten years. Although Prof Ros Dowse has never officially been a member of the Pharmacy Practice Division, we see her as one, since her research has mostly been



Mrs Lynette van Dyk



Ms Farisai Chiwanza



Ms Gcobisa Ngodwane

in Health Literacy and Health Communication, with a focus on developing pictograms.

The staff complement for the Division at the commencement of 2020 includes Prof Sue Burton, Dr Carmen Oltmann, Clarris Magadza, Farisai Chiwanza, Gcobisa Ngodwane and Lynette van Dyk in academic positions, and Amanda Zuma in a technical position. We are grateful to all who contributed to the PP Division over the years and are delighted to have a full staff complement again. We welcome Prof Sue Burton back - she joined us in 2019, 20 years after having left in 1999.

The Pharmacy Practice curriculum emphasises the need for students not just to “learn about” but also to “become pharmacists”. Our main aim is to ensure our students and graduates practice ethically, legally, appropriately and professionally. This involves creating opportunities for students to learn in different contexts: the classroom, during practicals, at experiential sites - in large and small groups. We see ourselves as “facilitators of learning”, hoping to inspire and empower our students.

With the emphasis on facilitating our students becoming pharmacists, we are very grateful to the Department of Health for the Clinical Skills Grant that allowed us to create a Clinical Skills Laboratory (CSL). The CSL contains a mock ward with four hospital beds, a learning area with cupboards containing various models and other equipment, as well as a stocked dispensary. The CSL is a very valuable teaching and learning environment, and we are very grateful for it.

The Clinical Skills Grant also allows us to take our students to clinical sites such as hospitals and clinics. In 2020 we hope to include hospitals and clinics outside Makhanda.

Assessment in the Division is geared towards ensuring competence according to the Exit Level Outcomes as well as the newly developed competencies. Students are taught about Continuing Professional Development (CPD) and the need for life- long learning. They develop communication skills that they can apply in any pharmacy context.

The new curriculum places more emphasis on experiential learning, Work-Based Learning (WBL) and Work Integrated Learning (WIL). The SAPC monitors this during the accreditation and monitoring visits. One of our flagships is the Community Engagement Programme (CEP) started by Prof Sue Burton in the early 1990s. This is a credit-bearing, service-learning module that allows our final year students to visit patients in their homes, thus exposing them to the real world and real patients. Students assess patients with chronic diseases (during an interview in their home) to determine their health care needs.

Students are expected to do work-based learning during their December- January vacation. The outcomes of the WBL are:

- exposure of the student to the workplace, in order to create awareness of the realities of the workplace;
- to reinforce and integrate theoretical concepts;
- to consolidate knowledge;
- to develop desired attitudes; and
- to develop the ability to apply knowledge and skills.

All Pharmacy students are required to complete a minimum of 400 hours during their degree – in community and hospital pharmacy. This can only be done at the end of their academic year, i.e. during their December-January vacation, or during their June-July vacation the following year. Third-year students can also do their hours in a manufacturing facility. The number of hours each student has to complete is dependent on their academic level and the hours are recorded in logbooks. The WBL programme cannot function without the support of pharmacists, and we are always very grateful to our alumni and other pharmacists who are willing to provide work placements for our students.

Over the past ten years, the division has grown and gone from strength to strength. We have sought to keep abreast of changes both within the pharmacy profession and the educational environment. As we move forward into the next decade, we would welcome any feedback or thoughts from alumni or any other pharmacists as we seek to prepare pharmacists for the future.



Two views of the Clinical Skills Laboratory

Division of Pharmaceutics

Head of division: Ms Natalie Paterson

Previous heads of division since 2009:
Dr Ros Dowse, Dr Sandile Khamanga.

I joined the Pharmaceutics Division at the beginning of 2017. I have BPharm and MSc (Pharmaceutics) degrees from Rhodes, and previously worked at Fort England Hospital and Fresenius-Kabi. Pedzisai Makoni joined us at the beginning of 2019. Pedzi has a BPharm and MSc (Pharmaceutics) from Rhodes and previously worked at Aspen. Pedzi is currently working on his PhD in Pharmaceutics under the supervision of Prof Walker and Prof Khamanga.

Prof Khamanga's fourth-year research project students had an exhibition stand at the 2018 Scifest entitled "the bad and the beautiful...the science behind cosmetics". This was a perfect opportunity to present an overview of the practice of skin bleaching and to raise more awareness of the dangers of this practice on a cosmetic basis, primarily to lighten normal dark skin.

During October of 2019, the Rhodes University Pharmacy Students Association (RUPSA) together with the Pharmacy Faculty arranged tours of the Aspen manufacturing plant in Port Elizabeth for RUPSA members. A total of forty students ranging from first-years to postgraduates attended the tours. The Aspen Learning and Development team took the students through a presentation on careers for pharmacists in the pharmaceutical industry and the students were then taken to the solid oral dosage form manufacturing unit where they got to see all the processes involved with tablet manufacture from the weighing of raw materials right to the final packaging. The visit was thoroughly enjoyed by all who attended, and the students found it very inspiring. We hope to continue this relationship



A Pharmaceutics 3 student prepares a sterile solution for injection using aseptic processing as part of their practical course.



A part of the group attending the Aspen tour.



Prof Khamanga's students' exhibition at SciFest 2018

Division of Pharmacology

Head of division: Professor Mamza Mothibe

Previous heads of division since 2009:
Prof Roy Jobson, Mr Michael Naidoo.

The Pharmacology Division has initiated a new research area investigating the fate of antibiotics used in animal husbandry. The project looks at the most commonly supplemented antibiotics in animal feed and how these additives impact on meat production in South Africa. Case studies on policy analysis and laboratory tracing of residual antibiotics in commercially available meat, are also ongoing within the division. It is hoped that this research will assist in the optimisation of antibiotic use in South Africa and ultimately contribute to the formulation of strategies that could combat the development and spread of antimicrobial resistance



Dr Harold Walsh, of the Pharmacology/Physiology Division, and Ms Prathna Bagrath discuss some of the finer points of her nascent PhD thesis.



Alas poor Yorick! - she knew him ... Ms Amanda Zuma is in charge of the Anatomy & Physiology laboratory's teaching equipment.

The PharmD programme

Emeritus Professor Beverley Wilson-Ramstad

This unique programme for the education and training of advanced practice personnel in clinical pharmacy took in its first candidate in 2004, and this year will see its last candidates complete the course. We have not taken in any new candidates since 2015 because of changes to the professional doctorate requirements.

There are currently six candidates working toward the degree, one in Mthatha, two in East London, and three in Port Elizabeth, all in tertiary hospitals.

Candidates for the degree have undertaken the work/study programme in hospitals in East London, Port Elizabeth, Mthatha and Kimberley. Thus far there have been twelve graduates, with a thirteenth about to graduate this year. Two graduates have left South Africa, one to take up an academic position in the United Kingdom, and the other to serve as a clinical pharmacist in New Zealand. All the other graduates are serving South Africans in roles such as an academic, four serving hospitals, one in industry, one serving in an advisory capacity and three serving in the National Department of Health. All are using the skills and knowledge gained from the programme in service to community needs, be it directly or indirectly.



Emeritus Professor Beverley Wilson with, in the background, two other stalwarts of the Faculty: Mr Len Paton (left), and Prof Ben Potgieter.

I have acted as co-ordinator of the programme since its inception and hope to see its last candidate cross the stage at graduation. It has been a stimulating experience trying to interact with students, Rhodes University administrative staff, fellow academics, the funders of the programme at the East Cape Department of Health, and the administrators and senior pharmacists in the various hospitals.

I had the privilege and pleasure last year of presenting the programme to an audience of academics and students at a university in Guangzhou, China. Fortunately that was before the COVID-19 drama!

Mentoring programme for first-year Pharmacy students

Dr Carmen Oltmann and Dr Leonie Goosen

There is nothing new about using peer mentoring to help first-year students transition from school to university. Senior students are the mentors who act as role models, and typically share their experiences with the first years.

The mentoring programme in the Faculty of Pharmacy started small, in 2003. Initially seven mentors (second- and third- year Pharmacy students), and 14 mentees (first-year Pharmacy students) volunteered. The number of mentors and mentees increased every year as changes based on annual evaluations were implemented. In 2020 there are 26 mentors (third-year Pharmacy students) and all 160 first year Pharmacy students are allocated a mentor and a mentoring group. They are expected to meet every week in the first semester.

The purpose of the mentoring programme has remained the same over the years, namely to: (1) ensure that the academic and environmental difficulties experienced by mentees are eliminated or minimised, (2) facilitate the mentees' socialisation within the university environment, and (3) facilitate the mentees' socialisation towards the pharmacy professional environment.

Mentors volunteer and undergo training during ongoing workshops. They also have the option of obtaining a ten-credit NQF level 5 peer-mentoring certificate, for which they have to complete a certain number of tasks. Dr Oltmann facilitated the mentoring programme from its inception in 2003 until the end of 2018. Dr Goosen took over in 2019.



Mentors for 2020



reports from faculty professors emeriti

These reports are published as I received them. I did not presume to shorten them, and editing as such was of course unnecessary.

Emeritus Professor Izzy Kanfer

I retired in 2007 but continued with research and supervision of postgraduate students. Since my retirement, six students completed their MSc projects and six their PhD, published forty-seven peer-reviewed papers, editor of three books, written fifteen book chapters and presented twenty-seven papers with postgraduate students at conferences and delivered thirty-four invited lectures worldwide.

- 2010 Elected as Chair: Bioequivalence Focus Group of the American Association of Pharmaceutical Scientists (AAPS)
- 2010 Elected as a Fellow of the American Association of Pharmaceutical Scientists (AAPS)
- 2010 Appointed as Editorial Board Member: *Encyclopedia of Pharmaceutical Science and Technology*, 4th edition
- 2012 Appointed as a Member of Health Canada's Scientific Advisory Committee on Pharmaceutical Sciences & Clinical Pharmacology (SAC-PSCP)
- 2013 Elected as a Fellow of the Canadian Society for Pharmaceutical Sciences (CSPS).
- 2014 Appointed as a Professor in the Leslie Dan Faculty of Pharmacy in 2016 and present a series of lectures on dermatological dosage forms.
- 2016 Appointed as Associate member, Graduate Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences, Leslie Dan Faculty of Pharmacy University of Toronto, Canada
- 2020 Editor-in Chief elect, *Encyclopedia of Pharmaceutical Science and Technology*



Research funding/grants

2013

US FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION GRANT AWARD
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Co-Investigator: Bioequivalence Expert

Project Title: In vitro/in vivo release tests for topical dermatological products

Amount awarded: US\$ 500,000

2017

US FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION GRANT AWARD
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Project Title: Development of a Universal Bioequivalence Test Method for Topical Drugs using dOFM

Principal Investigator: Frank Sinner

Co-Investigator: Isadore Kanfer, Bioequivalence Expert
Grant Period: 09/15/2016 – 08/31/2019
Amount awarded: US\$ 500,000/year for 3 years.

In 2016, Dr. Mike Skinner passed away. [See obituary notice, Ed.]. Dr Skinner succeeded me as Director of the Biopharmaceutics Research Institute (BRI), the research institute which I founded in 1987. Since that time I have supported the functioning of the BRI whilst awaiting the appointment of a successor to Mike Skinner as Director, and have served as principal investigator for contractual studies funded by international pharmaceutical companies. The Institute has been inspected, audited and approved by a number of international regulatory authorities such as the USA's Food & Drug Administration (FDA), the World Health Organization (WHO) and the South African Health Products Regulatory Authority (formerly known as the Medicines Control Council – MCC). Topical corticosteroid products which have been successfully tested at the BRI have received marketing authorization in South Africa, Europe, United States of America and Canada. During March 2018, the BRI was inspected by the USA's Food & Drug Administration (FDA) and received notification that the audit was successful, a great tribute and acknowledgement despite its relatively small size and modest funding. The BRI has a long-standing international reputation and has never failed an accreditation audit. Apart from the provision of the VCA service to Industry, the Institute also provides facilities for postgraduate projects leading to MSc and PhD degrees, as well as bursaries and scholarships for deserving postgraduate students and serves as a unique training ground for both students and scientists in this area of expertise.

Over the years, the BRI has had regular successful inspections by the US Food and Drug Administration (US FDA), the World Health Organisation (WHO) and the South African Medicines Control Council (MCC), now known as the South African Health Products Regulatory Authority (SAHPRA) and is internationally acknowledged as a premier testing site for dermatological products using the US FDA's Vasoconstrictor Assay in accordance with a specific guidance issued by the FDA. Compliance with FDA regulatory requirements is considered amongst the strictest in the world and there are national and international contract research organizations involved in such testing, many of whom are multi-million-dollar companies that have failed such regulatory audits.

Emeritus Professor Ros Dowse

As her report indicates, Prof Dowse's circumstances over the last 20 years have been unenviable and difficult in the extreme. Her unfailing courage, energy and buoyant, lively disposition, and her magnificent output of work in spite of these adversities, is truly extraordinary - and indeed inspirational. Professor Dowse writes as follows.

Publications 2010-2019

Sixteen papers covering a variety of topics.

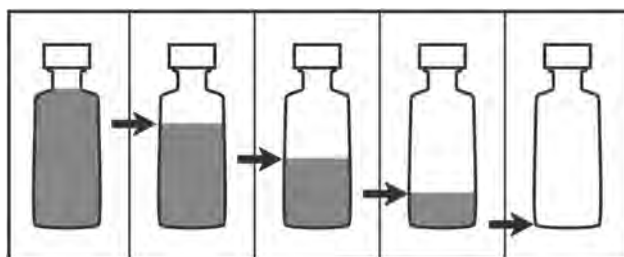
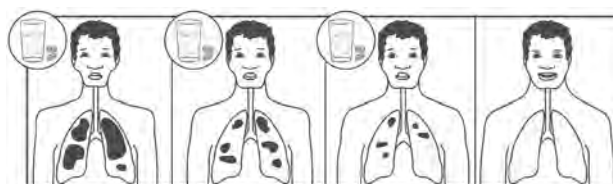
1. Designing and evaluating health pictograms, developing information leaflets and booklets with pictograms for HIV patients, TB patients and/or TB community health workers and assessing their impact.
2. In health literacy, assessing international health literacy tests for applicability in South Africa, and designing and validating a new health literacy test specifically for the South African population.
3. Writing as a patient advocate to the health professions.

Postgraduates 2010-2019

Graduated four PhDs and five MPharm students

Awards 2010-2019

- 2010 Best Academic Podium Presentation. 24th Annual Conference of the South African Association of Hospital and Institutional Pharmacists
- 2014 Best Academic Podium Presentation. 27th Annual Conference of the South African Association of Hospital and Institutional Pharmacists
- 2016 Honorary Life Membership conferred at the Academy of Pharmaceutical Sciences of South Africa
- 2016 Best Publication: Pharmacy Practice. 29th Annual Conference of the Academy of Pharmaceutical Sciences of South Africa.
- 2018 Best Publication: Pharmacy Practice (co-author). 31st Annual Conference of the Academy of Pharmaceutical Sciences of South Africa.



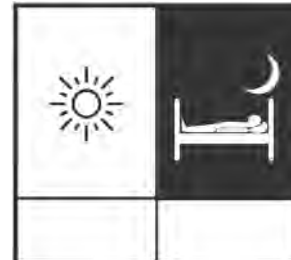
This past decade has been a tumultuous, life-changing one for me. I started my lecturing career in 1984, the year I was awarded my PhD, and in 1985 was appointed to the permanent staff. As a 15 yr old, I had vehemently declared to my family that I would NEVER be a teacher, but that is exactly what I became. I did try really hard to avoid this path – after all, I chose pharmacy, didn't I? To my surprise I absolutely loved my many years of lecturing until, in 2013, it was abruptly, and rather brutally, taken from me because of cancer. In 1998 I had been diagnosed with squamous cell carcinoma of the tongue, and in the intervening two decades I have had 6 occurrences (tongue, neck, floor of mouth, jaw bone, skin of jaw), radiation, and multiple operations.

In 2001 I had half my tongue removed in a hemiglossectomy which affected my speech - only then did I fully comprehend how precious my teaching was to me. Luckily I was able to continue for a while longer, until 2013 when I had a mandibulectomy, with a prosthetic jaw fashioned out of my fibula. The operation was successful, but my three-week hospital stay was traumatic and mind-blowing, as I experienced the best and also, unfortunately, the worst of care, with many uncaring experiences and some incompetence at the hands of health professionals. It stimulated me to become a patient advocate to health professionals as I could integrate my pharmacy background, my research training and my patient status to speak on an equal footing to health professionals about the patient experience. I was unable to continue to lecture fulltime as I am all kinds of functionally impaired – speaking, eating, swallowing – and of course I also look rather

“strange”! My life has changed fundamentally; it's harder, smaller, much less sociable. However, a huge factor from a psychological perspective of learning to cope with a new, very different life has been my continued connection with the Pharmacy Faculty (my other family) as I am still able to supervise postgrad research and have embarked on a new research path in patient-centred care. This allows me to continue contributing to the Faculty, to young lives, and to feel that I am doing something meaningful with my life.

My health-related pictogram research is still active and is globally known. Locally, our pictograms are used in practice on the Phelophepa Train in the dispensary. After much work with my graphic artist last year to establish a database of pictograms drawn from previous projects, this year a collection of around 100 tested pictograms will be made available to any individual or organisation who wishes to use them. A most rewarding achievement in my health literacy research was filling a gap in the literature for a health literacy test suitable for limited-literacy individuals, typically from developing countries. Developing and validating such a test was a PhD project completed by Chipiwa Marimwe.

My patient advocacy to the health professions has taken the form of presentations to fellow pharmacists at local pharmacy conferences, and at three international head and neck cancer and maxillofacial rehabilitation conferences, as an invited plenary speaker. I also present to pharmacy undergraduates at Rhodes and elsewhere, to cancer survivors, and to groups such as Rotary and U3A.



Emeritus Professor John Haigh

I retired from the Faculty of Pharmacy at the end of 2009 after teaching Pharmaceutical Chemistry at Rhodes for 37 years. I also edited the annual review from 2003 to 2008 with help from others -mainly Ros Dowse, Maureen Bowles and Leon Purdon - and I was sorry that nobody took over. I'm really happy to hear that Sirion and Ros have taken on the task of producing a review of the last 10 years. So what have I been doing over the last 10 years? First, Lil and I moved to Port Elizabeth in 2010 and we are living in a very spacious house in Millard Grange with a splendid view over the bay. We're very happy in PE and pleased that it turned out to be a good move for us. We've been doing lots of travelling mainly to the UK to visit our family. Both of our sons moved there and our two granddaughters were born there. Our eldest son, Gregory, and his family moved back to Cape Town five years ago so now we're doing quite a bit of travelling to Cape Town! (Strong magnets those granddaughters!). David is still living in London and will probably stay there. We had a splendid two week tour through Turkey in 2016 just a week after the attempted coup and the bomb at Istanbul airport. These worked in our favour as our group was supposed to be 50 people but



there were 43 cancellations. The archaeological sites were virtually empty but the poor traders were taking a huge knock. One of the nicest things that we did during this decade was to go back to Rhodes to attend the reunion of the Pharmacy class of 1975 (see the report in this review). This was organised by Ashley Magnus and it was a great success. People came from all over the world to attend and it was great to see them all again. Some were instantly recognisable; others had changed to the extent that

they were almost like different people! Since we moved to PE, I've got actively back into philately and I've done quite well in national exhibitions with my collections of Grahamstown postal history and postmarks, Grahamstown postcards, and Southern Rhodesia, 1924-1980. The national exhibition is in PE this year and I'm on the organising committee. If you're interested in stamps, it will be in October in the Boardwalk Hotel and should be an excellent exhibition.

local updates



Local updates 1 The City

The long-standing controversy about changing the city's name has been resolved. The High Court has recognised the name Makhanda for what was previously called Grahamstown. The name-change was gazetted on 29 June 2018. Thus we are now the city of Makhanda. This will have pleased those who lobbied for years for a name-change. Whilst it may perhaps be excellent in principle to have changed our name, as a gesture of emancipation from our embarrassing past, maladies linger on – and indeed appear to be growing. The municipality ('muni' is the popular modern term of reference) is bankrupt, and is not performing to general satisfaction.

The deteriorating local situation is of course a problem for all citizens and social structures – including the University. The difficulties for Rhodes have been exacerbated by the fact that, for ideological and practical reasons, the University has been identifying increasingly closely with the local community over the last several decades. Because of increasing pressures and non-delivery by the municipality an imbizo was held, in the Rhodes Council Chamber, in July 2019. It was organised by the University and attended by representatives of all local 'stakeholders'. Throughout a full day a succession of speakers gave their views on how to manage the crisis situation,



and to navigate into more comfortable, stable and respectable waters. I had a bird's eye view of the entire meeting, because I had been commissioned to video it. At least one senior university person later described it, in my presence, as 'a lot of hot air'. Another called it a waste of his time.

The High Court has now ruled that the municipal body be dissolved and a new council elected. This ruling came after prolonged and detailed judicial

investigation of civic circumstances, the supply, or non-supply, of public services and the use of public funds.

At the time of preparing this review, the City Council has not complied with the High Court ruling, has lodged an appeal, and is 'hanging in there'. Council claims that Makhanda has 'turned a corner'.



Part of Makhanda's High Street. Other streets in the city are no less afflicted.



Some craters in New Street. Unlike lunar craters, these are not caused by meteorite impacts.



As well as a streak of cynicism, one needs a sense of humour to protect one's morale. Creative application of capitalist principles remains a part of the city's life.





Trains no longer arrive at Makhanda station, from which excited young people used to walk up to the University at the beginning of a new term, and at which, until some years ago, the Phelophepa and other useful trains could call. The station buildings have been comprehensively vandalised, and the area has been enclosed by a security fence to prevent the entire building being removed (a fate that has befallen at least one railway station in South Africa). A drowsy but friendly security guard let me into the enclosure to take photographs.



Social entropy – like its physico-chemical counterpart – increases. This view reminded me of Shelley's poem Ozymandias. You can still see railway lines, but they no longer lead anywhere.

Local updates 2 The University

Viewed from a moderate distance, all appears well with the University – barring, as mentioned, the difficulties of functioning in a dysfunctional civic environment, and attempting to remain closely integrated with it.

The University's clock in the iconic tower on the main building has not kept time for several years, and the webcam that used to look down High Street towards the Cathedral no longer operates.

The member of the Physics Department who used to be responsible for the camera left Rhodes, and the demise of the webcam seems to have coincided with his departure. The good news, however, is that the main building is having a major face-lift, as some of our photographs will show. And we understand that the clock mechanism will get the necessary attention. Perhaps the webcam too will again open its electronic eyelid and gaze down High Street.





The movement towards increasing representation of the local community in the student body has been gaining momentum, and has accelerated greatly in the last three to four years. Currently the proportion of black students at Rhodes is greater than 80%. The biggest feeder school for Rhodes is the Gadra matric school, which has a good, dedicated staff and maintains respectable academic standards. Matriculants from local private schools, and from Graeme College, generally apply to, and are accepted by, universities elsewhere. (One of my colleagues was told, when she asked some students why they came to Rhodes to study, 'Because there's free accommodation'.)

In spite of these circumstances, Rhodes has a higher pass rate and graduation rate than any other university in South Africa. This has long been true, and it is officially seen, by Rhodes, as a positive reflection on our teaching. Other interpretations are possible, but, we hope, invalid. Undoubtedly there is a lot of very good teaching at Rhodes, and our Faculty is justly proud of its efforts to offer the best possible learning experience to its students.

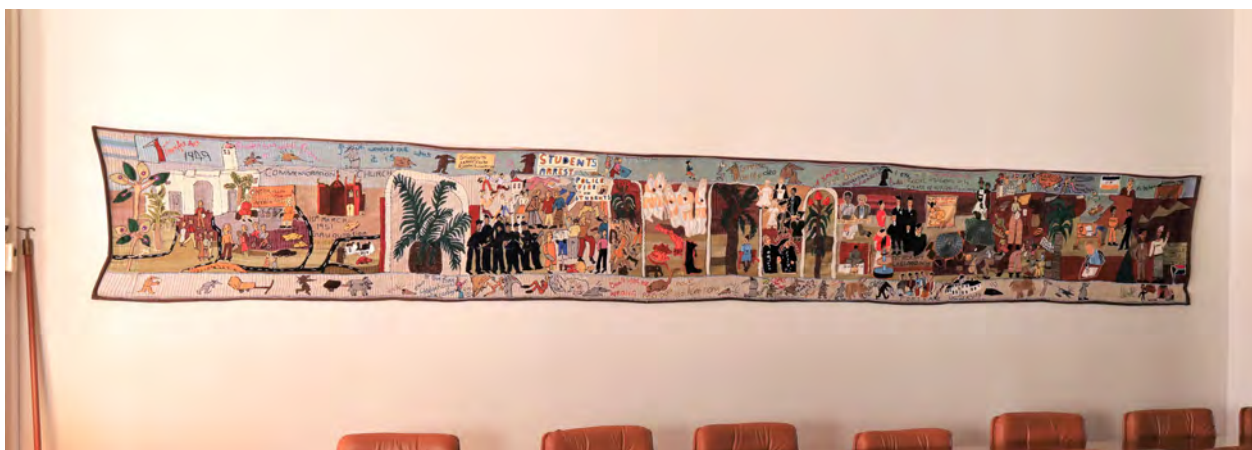
The debate about changing the University's name has not disappeared, although it seems at present to have gone into remission. Inevitably, opinion remains sharply divided on the issue. While preparing this Review I asked one of the Deputy Vice-Chancellors, Professor Peter Clayton, for comment on it. He kindly sent me some extracts from a recent debate on the matter, by the University Council. The bottom line (as of 2017): after canvassing a broad cross-section of stakeholders, and exhaustive debate, Council voted, by a significant but not overwhelming majority, that the name remains Rhodes University. We hope this decision will not lead to disruptive protests or the

trashing of important public amenities by those students who disagree with it.

Predictably, the University's iconography has evolved with its changing circumstances and perceptions. The photographs of alumni who fell in the First and Second World Wars, which used to line the corridors of the main building, have long-since been removed, as have the marble busts of the University's first great benefactors; the eponymous Cecil Rhodes, and Alfred Beit. The photographs and paintings of the University's past Vice-Chancellors that used to hang in the Council chamber have been removed and replaced with pieces of modern, local art. In Alumni House there were, until recently, photographs of people prominently involved in the struggle for socio-political change. Now these too have been removed and replaced with neutral imagery.



The new Biological Sciences building was built during the period under review.



Artwork in the Council Chamber

Local updates 3 The Faculty of Pharmacy

The Dean has given a comprehensive summary of the Faculty in his Report. Here we present a highly condensed account of year-to-year events. We apologise for the fact that we are unable to offer a complete record.

Here follows a timeline for the Faculty of Pharmacy from 2009-2019.



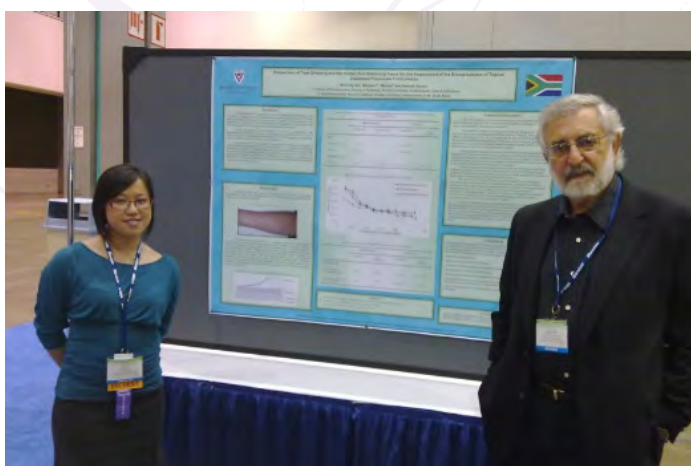
The Pharmacy/Chemistry building. More than three thousand young people have studied pharmacy here, and graduated in the Monument on Gunfire Hill. Parts of St Andrew's College in the background.

2009

- Carmen Oltmann receives her doctorate, for a thesis titled 'A critical realist account of a mentoring programme in the Faculty of Pharmacy at Rhodes University'.
- Prof Izzy Kanfer, Sandile Khamanga (at that stage Mr, but not for much longer: see our entry for 2010), and Wai Ling Au, a PhD student, attend the 2009 American Association of Pharmaceutical Scientists (AAPS) Annual Meeting and Exposition in Los Angeles. This conference enables researchers to share their most recent advances in the field of Pharmaceutical Sciences. Our three delegates found that the pharmaceutical research being conducted at Rhodes is comparable to research being done internationally.



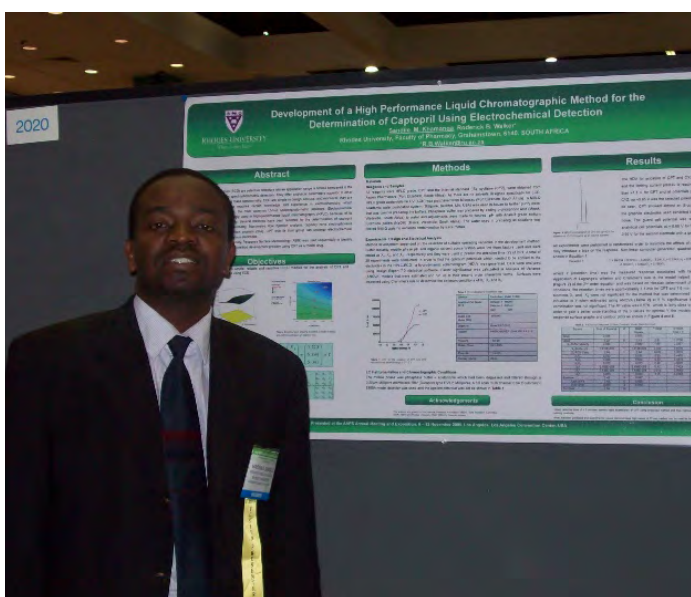
Dr Oltmann after the graduation ceremony. With her are Prof Christie Boughey and Faculty colleague Billy Futter.



Prof Kanfer and Wai Ling at their poster.



Time off: an evening in Los Angeles.



Sandile Khamanga with his AAPS poster.

2010

- Ms N. Dukhi joins the Faculty to teach Anatomy and Physiology, in the Pharmacology Division.
- A big contingent of the Faculty's postgraduate students and staff attend the 2010 APSSA Conference, held at the University of Limpopo in September. Representatives of all four of the Faculty's Divisions gave oral and/or poster presentations: a total of four oral and eight poster presentations.
- Our undergraduates too excelled. Each year the Academy of Pharmaceutical Sciences awards an inscribed medallion to the top student in each year of the BPharm degree. Recipients of the awards were Kudakwashe Sigauke (1st year), Kudzai Mutotera (2nd year), Jameel Fakee (3rd year), and Laura Magnus (4th year).
- And there was a new crop of doctoral graduates. (Can you see our present Dean?)



Doctoral graduates, 2010.

- Rhodes Pharmacy students were involved with the Phelophepa Health Care Train for eight weeks in 2010. (See the write-up on this train in our section on community engagement.)
- Dr Wa Kasongo joins the Faculty, in the Pharmaceutics Division.
- Dr KB Yusuff joins the Faculty, in the Pharmacy Practice Division.

- One of the distinguished visitors to our Faculty in 2010 was Professor C.K. Kokate, Vice-Chancellor of KLE University, in the city of Belgaum, Karnataka State, in south western India. The main purpose of his visit was to sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU). This Memorandum is intended to facilitate the exchange of staff and research students between both universities, and to conduct mutually beneficial research projects.



Signing the MoU. Left to right: Prof Izzy Kanfer, Prof Rod Walker, Prof Kokate, Dr Badat (Vice-Chancellor of Rhodes), Prof Patnala (KLE, but at the time working in the Rhodes Pharmacy Faculty), and Prof Sunitha Srinivas, of the Rhodes Pharmacy Faculty.

- Natisha Dukhi and Lucie Allen attend the 4th MRC Research Day held in Parow, Cape Town, in October.



(pictured right) Natisha Dukhi (left) and Lucie Allen with their poster at the 4th MRC Research Day held in Parow, Cape Town, in October 2010.

2011

- Sunitha Srinivas receives a 'Commendation' for her teaching from the Council on Higher Education, as part of the National Teaching Excellence Award process.
- Professor Izzy Kanfer is elected a Fellow of the American Association of Pharmaceutical Scientists (AAPS), and Chairman of the Bioequivalence Focus Group. (photo right)
- Prof Roy Jobson is appointed by the Minister of Health as community representative to serve on the Allied Health Professions Council of South Africa for a five-year period.
- Mr KB Yusuff leaves the Faculty.
- Ms Jackie Jooste joins the Faculty, in the Pharmacology Division.



The photograph says it all.



Pharmacy graduates take the Pharmacy Oath in the Chemistry Major lecture theatre.

2012

- Staff members attend conferences in South Africa, America and Turkey.
- Dr Betty Patterson, a Research Associate of the Faculty, is with us again to assist with the PharmD Programme.
- Janine Munsamy graduates PharmD.
- Jane Riddin wins the award for best podium presentation at the SASOCP conference.
- Wendy Wrench wins the best academic presentation at a SAAHIP meeting.
- Students attend a leadership course, sponsored by Dischem. (photo right)
- Catherine Luyt wins the Community Engagement scholarship for her PhD research into water quality.
- Staff members attend conferences



Academy of Pharmaceutical Sciences Conference, at the Settlers' National Monument, in September.

2013

in South Africa, Kathmandu, Vienna, the Netherlands, the USA and Namibia.

- Lucie Allan joins the staff in the Pharmacy Practice Section.
- Beverley Wilson-Ramstad is invested as a Dame of the Order of St John (The Priory of South Africa).
- Prof Roy Jobson registers with the HPCSA as a specialist in Clinical Pharmacology.
- Prof Billy Futter, of the Division of Pharmacy Practice, conducts a leadership training session.
- Dr Denzil Beukes leaves the Faculty, to take up an appointment in the Western Cape.
- Ms N. Dukhi leaves the Faculty and returns to Kwazulu-Natal.
- Dr Betty Patterson again visits us, from 1 March to 13 April.
- Prof Izzy Kanfer is elected a Fellow of the Canadian Society of Pharmaceutical Sciences (CSPS).
- Rial Kloppers wins the Up and Coming Clinical Pharmacist Award at a Clinical Pharmacy conference.
- Yoland Irwin is elected onto the executive committee of the Aromatherapy Society of South Africa.
- Prof Walker is appointed onto the SA Pharmacy Council, to represent the academic pharmacy sector.
- Rhodes pharmacy graduate Linda Mutsaerts (nee Bryant), owner of the National Road Pharmacy in Kloof, Kwazulu-Natal, wins two awards: one for the best community pharmacy in South Africa, and one for the best pharmacy facility in South Africa.
- Staff attend conferences in South Africa, Turkey, Hawaii and Texas.



One of our newly-graduating students signs the Pharmacist's Oath document, in the presence of Pharmacist Yoland Irwin.



Prof Billy Futter conducting a Leadership training session.

2014

- Prof Ben Potgieter dies. (See our In Memoriam section.)
- Dr Manette Marais joins the Faculty, as Lecturer in Anatomy and Physiology. She replaces Ms N. Duki.
- Dr Clint Veale joins the Faculty.
- Prof Walker is elected Chairman of the Education Committee of the SAPC
- Rhodes pharmacy graduate Doug Defty is elected Vice-President of the SAPC.
- Prof Roy Jobson resigns from the University.
- Mr T Samkange leaves the University.
- Prof Beverley Glass, one of the Faculty's Distinguished Visiting Professors, visits the Faculty for six weeks, to teach and to interact with staff and postgraduates.
- Prof Sunitha Srinivas wins one of the 2014 National Teaching Excellence Awards. These awards are made jointly by the Council on Higher Education and the Higher Education Learning and Teaching Association of South Africa (HELTASA).
- Dr Leonie Goosen wins the Senior Vice-Chancellor's Distinguished Teaching Award of 2014.
- Nosi Ngqwala wins an award for the best oral presentation by a student, at the 12th International Water Association Specialist Conference, held in Muscat, Oman.
- Prof Sunitha Srinivas receives an Internationalisation Award.
- Clarris Magadza joins the staff on a part-time basis.
- Staff attend conferences in South Africa, Iran and Oman.
- Prof Walker stands down as Head and Dean of the Faculty.



Prof Srinivas with her HELTASA Award



Professor Srinivas receives her Internationalisation Award from the Vice-Chancellor, Dr Mabizela.



Claris Magadza



Prof Walker, Dr Khamanga, Prof Dowse and Dr Kasongo at Dr Kasongo's farewell gathering.

2015

- Prof George Wells, of the Department of Computer Science, becomes acting Head and Dean.
- Dr Sandile Khamanga is promoted to Senior Lecturer. He is also awarded a Y2 Promising Young Researcher rating by the National Research Foundation.
- Dave and Sally Morley retire after 33 and 28 years respectively of sterling service to the Faculty. [See photo in 'News of the staff'.]
- Ms Jackie Jooste leaves the University.
- Mrs Wendy Wrench leaves the University.
- Leon Purdon retires after 39 years of faithful and unflagging support in the Faculty's technical section.
- Dr C. Rambanapasi joins the Faculty.
- A forty-year reunion is held by the final-year students who graduated in 1975. (See our separate entry, later in the magazine.)
- Yoland Irwin is elected to the Professional Board for Therapeutic Aromatherapy, Therapeutic Massage, and Therapeutic Reflexology of the Allied Health Professions Council of South Africa.
- Prof. Sunitha Srinivas is awarded a Talloires Network 'University Education for Transformative Leadership in Africa' Mini Grant for Engaged Faculty and Staff. The programme makes awards to ten individuals at universities in Africa working in community-engaged teaching, research and scholarship.
- Senior pharmacy students give a 'My Health' presentation to Rhodes employees as part of Research Day.



- At its 36th Annual Conference, Prof Ros Dowse is made an Honorary Life Member of the Academy of Pharmaceutical Sciences. This honour was conferred on her in recognition of her contributions to pharmacy education and her service to the profession.
- Staff attend conferences/workshops in South Africa, Sri Lanka, Algeria, Scotland, Zimbabwe and Australia.

2016

- Prof Ros Dowse wins a best publication award in Pharmacy Practice.
- Dr Leonie Goosen receives the Academy of Pharmaceutical Sciences Teaching Award.
- Prof Walker is appointed Chairman of the Academy of Pharmaceutical Sciences of South Africa.
- Prof J Bodenstein joins the Faculty, in the Pharmacology Division.
- Mrs Yolande van Deventer joins the Faculty, in the Pharmacy Practice Division.
- Dr Rambanapasi leaves the University.
- Dr Manette Marais leaves the University.
- Nosi Ngqwala is elected a member of the executive committee of SAYAS (South African Young Academy of Science). She also plays a leading role in the local NGO, Children of the Soil (COTS), which won the Makana Community category of the Rhodes University Environmental awards.
- Staff attend conferences in South Africa, Boston, Wisconsin, the UK and Scotland.



The Faculty's delegation to the All Africa Congress on Pharmacology and Pharmacy, incorporating the 37th Annual Congress of the Academy of Pharmaceutical Sciences, held at Misty Hills, Muldersdrift, Gauteng, in October.

- The Quality Control Lab is established. Here are some pictures taken in 2020:



Clarence Dhege and Professor Khamanga discuss some data in the QC lab.



Final-year students at the 2016 Roche Dinner.

2017

- Prof Walker and Dr Roman Tandlich are listed in the Top 30 researchers at Rhodes.
- Prof Santy Daya rejoins the Faculty as Head and Dean. Acting Head and Dean Prof George Wells returns to his substantive position in the Department of Computer Science.
- Dr Sandile Khamanga joined Prof Manel del Valle's research group for a month's post-doc research stay in the Sensors and Biosensors Group at the Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona, Bellaterra (Barcelona) Spain, in May-June. (photo below)



- Ms Natalie Paterson joins the Faculty in the Pharmaceutics Division.
- Mrs Lucie Allan leaves the University.
- Prof Sunitha Srinivas leaves the University.
- Dr A Ngwenya joins the Faculty.
- Staff attend conferences in South Africa and India.



Research Day 2017. Some of the final-year students with their posters.

2018

- Dr Chipiwa Marimwe receives the award for the best publication in Pharmacy Practice, at the Academy of Pharmaceutical Sciences Conference. (Dr Marimwe graduated in April of this year).
- Dr Marimwe and Prof Ros Dowse receive a Boehringer Ingelheim Publication Award for a publication on the development of an item bank of health literacy questions for the limited-literacy sector of the public.
- Prof Walker and Dr Roman Tandlich are again listed in the Top 30 researchers at the University.
- Clarris Magadza becomes a member of the permanent staff.
- Mrs Yolande van Deventer leaves the University.
- Dr Clint Veale leaves the University.
- Mr Collin Nontyi retires after 34 years of faithful service in the laboratories. (See Obituaries, later in the Review.)
- Dr A. Ramanah joins the Faculty.
- Mr PA Goberdhan joins the Faculty, and leaves it three months later.
- Staff attend conferences in South Africa, China, Australia and the UK.



At a Rhodes official lunch in honour of the 2018 PhD graduates.



Yoland Irwin and her husband Professor Barry Irwin (Computer Science Department) were at the same lunch.

2019

- Professor Sue Burton joins the Faculty at mid-year, from Nelson Mandela University.



Prof Burton with a tutorial group in the Anatomy & Physiology lab

- Prof Santy Daya leaves the University.
- Dr Carmen Oltmann is invited to serve on the Eastern Cape AIDS Council.
- Prof Johan Bodenstein resigns from the University to take up a senior appointment at NMU.
- Yoland Irwin leaves the University and the country to emigrate with her young family to Norway. (See her report from Norway, later in the Review.)
- Dr Ramanah leaves the University.
- Prof Walker is awarded the Academic Pharmacist Award for his contributions to Pharmacy and Pharmacy Education. (The Award forms part of the 2019 SAPC National Pioneer Pharmacy Professional Awards.) See a full report on this in the section on the Pharmaceutics Division, later in the Review.
- Ms Gcobisa Ngodwane joins the Faculty, in the Pharmacy Practice Division, to fill the vacancy created by the resignation of Yoland Irwin.
- Staff attend conferences in South Africa, Mauritius, the Czech Republic, South Korea and Morocco.



The Pharmaceutics Division at Graduation: Natalie Paterson, Prof. Walker, Prof. Khamanga, Pedzisai Makoni.



Students at the Oath Ceremony in Barrat Hall

Faculty Research output: 2009-2019

An informal survey of opinion amongst the current staff strongly indicated that giving lists of publications would not be a good idea. But research, and the *sequelae* of publication, are as fundamental to any university faculty as is teaching. And our own Faculty of Pharmacy is no slouch in the matter of high-quality research and publication. Parts of this Review should make it clear that the Faculty's research activities are closely integrated with its teaching, and involve senior undergraduate as well as graduate students, guided and mentored by members of the staff.

A member of the Research Office kindly provided me with some highly-distilled numerical data on research output by the Faculty in the period under review. Here is a graphical presentation of the figures given me. (As provided by the Research Office, the numbers representing annual output were presented to two decimal places. I have taken the liberty of rounding to nearest whole numbers.)

This graph means very little to the great majority of us, but to the *cognoscenti* it conveys real and important information. It is also, significantly, the basis for a major part of the University's funding, and thus represents some of its life blood.

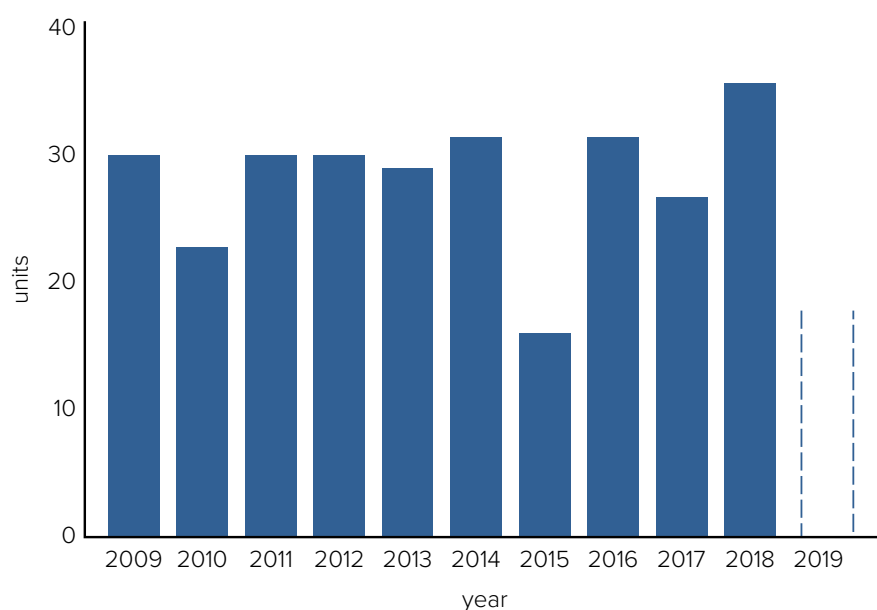
The numbers (y axis) represent units derived from publications in accredited journals, conference presentations, authorship or co-authorship of books of a scholarly nature, or of chapters in

such books, and from graduating students. A graduating PhD student, for example, earns three credit points. A graduating Master's student earns one credit point. The people who derive these figures know what they're doing, and the numbers translate, quantitatively, into a flow of money into the University's coffers.

I asked one of the Research Office personnel (who cautiously preferred not to be named) how this annual output compares with that of other faculties in the University. But the officer refused to be drawn on this. Being myself of a sanguine disposition I'm sure our efforts in this area compare well with those of the rest of the University.

If this research output over the last ten years is compared with the graph presented in the Dean's Report, it will be apparent that the output has maintained itself in spite of a very large growth in student numbers, and hence in demands made upon the staff, which has not grown in the same proportion – indeed it has hardly grown at all. And, according to informed opinion, the number of students per staff member was larger than optimal even in 2009.

That of course reflects very well on the staff, but less well on the bigger picture. It is a small and specific example of the many imbalances in society. We are far from equilibrium (and that isn't an editorial or Faculty 'we': it's a national and global we).



Notes

1. Data for 2018 are unconfirmed, and for 2019 unavailable.
2. The variation in output over the 10-year period may be no more than random, or it may reflect instability in staffing during that time.

The White Coat Ceremony and Pledge of Professionalism

The Faculty recently held its third annual White Coat Ceremony at Eden Grove to inaugurate first-year students into the pharmacy profession.

The Head and Dean, Professor Sandile Khamanga, extended his appreciation to the attendees, including Rhodes University Vice-Chancellor, Dr Sizwe Mabizela and Deputy Dean of the Law Faculty, Professor Lawrence Juma. Local pharmacists also attended and assisted in the cloaking of students.

The Dean explained the purpose of the ceremony as an induction into the pharmacy profession. 'During your four-year undergraduate journey, you need to acquire patience and persistence. These will lead you to progress,' he said.

Professor Rod Walker, former Head and Dean of Pharmacy, further elaborated on the White Coat Ceremony as a symbolic inauguration of acceptance by the pharmacy profession.

'Coats were initially worn by scientists in laboratories in the late 1800s, when they were beige in colour. Medical doctors wore black during the 19th century, to show respect for the dead. Ultimately the colour white became favourable in a clinical environment, since stains are clearly visible and this can help prevent the spread of contamination,' he explained.

The white coat symbolises pureness, hope, professionalism and hygiene.

Prof Walker took the students through the Pharmacy Students Pledge as the first step towards the journey of professionalism, and a rite of passage to welcome the students to the profession of pharmacy. During this process, the students agreed to adhere to the essential principles and ethical behaviour required by students of the profession.



In the White Coat Ceremony students are coated in small batches – rather as tablets are coated in batches.

The Pledge

The pledge is a solemn affirmation taken voluntarily by first-year students in an attempt to recognise professional identity. It is built on integrity and the principles of ethical behaviour, honesty, honour and commitment. In doing so this commits students to accept responsibility and accountability for their actions and requires them to be an ambassador for the profession and requires them to care for their patients.

‘..... in the presence of my family, peers, teachers and all other witnesses assembled here today, I solemnly pledge,

To accept responsibility for my education and become an independent and active learner,

To pursue professional competency through self-directed and continual learning during my education, training and career,

To adopt professional and ethical behavior within the university and all practice settings,

To develop a sense of loyalty and duty to the profession, by contributing to the well-being of others and by accepting responsibility of membership of the profession,

To uphold the profession of pharmacy with respect and pride,

To speak respectfully of the profession and strive to promote the positive contribution the profession can make to patient care amongst my professional peers, within the university, community and society,

To strive to cooperate and collaborate with my classmates, academic and support staff and professional colleagues within the university community and the profession,

To acknowledge that the profession of pharmacy is one that demands high ethical standards that are necessary to ensure quality of care is extended to patients,

To strive to uphold these standards as I advance through my undergraduate education at Rhodes University towards my goal of full membership within the profession of pharmacy,

That my primary goal will be the fulfilment of the demands of my profession,

That I have taken this pledge voluntarily, in full realisation of the confidence and responsibility placed upon me.

I now go forth to discharge my responsibilities to the best of my ability and true to the dictates of my conscience.’

After taking the pledge, registered pharmacists from the Faculty and community “coated” each student by placing the white coats over their shoulders.



Staff and students at the White Coat Ceremony.



Fun at the White Coat ceremony.

forty years on

40-year reunion in March 2015
Final-year Class of 1975



A major event on the Faculty's social calendar for 2015 was a 40-year reunion of the final-year class of 1975. Ashley Magnus, the motivating force and organiser of the reunion, has provided us with

some comments on it. And we've gone into our archives to bring you some photographs.

Ashley Magnus writes:

Hi there the Class of 75 and all other pharmacy alumni.

Yes it's me again!

Can you believe that we all met in Grahamstown 5 years ago for the '40 year reunion of the class of 1975'? Time flies when you're having fun. It was wonderful to see and chat to you all after 40 years of leaving Rhodes. Unfortunately I have had very little communication from you since the reunion and hence cannot report on what activity you have been up to. Hopefully these activities have been clean, honest and fun and uphold the professional image of a pharmacist as per the SAPC!

I had thought of a 45 year reunion but decided that perhaps we should go for the big fifty. Are you in? That assuming that the old knees are bending, the heart is still pumping away, the eyes are fine and the rest is hanging in. I am always reminded that 90% of your medical aid expenses occur in the last 10 years of your life.

In writing this note I was thinking back about all the changes that we have experienced since and during our Rhodes days:

We used to use slide rules.

Pharmacognosy was taught by the pipe-smoking Prof Price.

Academic gowns were compulsory for dinner.

The most popular car on Campus was the VW Beetle.

Girls were locked up at 11.00pm.

The Pharmacy Department name was changed to the School of Pharmaceutical Sciences.

Lex Mpati, the recently retired Supreme Court Judge and Chancellor of Rhodes was the barman at the Motel.

The most popular song in the 70s was John Lennon's "Imagine".

Martindale cost about R30.00

Zimbabwe was still known as Rhodesia.

No faxes or emails. No cell phones!

Pocket money was about R20 per month.

Think back and you will realise what changes our group has seen. I believe we have been extremely fortunate in experiencing these massive changes over part of our lifetimes.

Rhodes Pharmacy is fortunate in that all the students do the same course and hence are in a sense forced into a group where they almost become "family". I would therefore like to suggest that one or two past students from different years start arranging their own reunions. With the ease of communication these days it is not difficult to trace people and once you get the ball rolling you will find this one knows that one and that one knows that one and so on, before you know it you will have your class rounded up and ready for a Reunion.

The staff from the Alumni Division are extremely helpful and will help you put it all together. It only takes one of you to get the ball rolling, so get it rolling.

Let's make this a Rhodes Pharmacy Reunion "tradition".



This group might be called a chromatic anachronism or a cultural relic. The reason? It is a 40-year reunion of the final-year pharmacy class of 1975. It comprised a set of nostalgia-driven activities over about three days in March, 2015. The picture shows the group at a cocktail party in the University common room.



Elaine Wareing (nee Grasby) (right), with her husband. Unfortunately we can't identify the lady on the left. Taking the photograph of them is the late Mrs Terryl McCarthy, a member of the Communications and Advancement Division who was the local organiser and co-ordinator of the reunion.



Udo Kannegiesser was one of the class of '75 at the 40-year reunion.



Taki Kyriacos (right) was another.

(left) from left: Lil Haigh, Ashley Magnus, Izzy Kanfer, John Haigh and Gerald Coleman at one of the 40-year reunion functions.



Everyone attending the Reunion received a beautiful chopping board as a memento – made by Ashley. Here's ours – being put to good use. Thankyou Ashley! Sirion.



As we were about to go to press we heard, from Prof Kanfer, of other recent reunions – one in Cape Town, in 2019, the other in Sydney Australia, in February of this year. The Cape Town gathering was the Class of '69 – thus a 50-year reunion. It took place partly at the Durbanville Hills Restaurant. Prof Kanfer remarks that it went

off very well. Various activities were arranged, but the delegates wanted mainly to sit and talk. In the photograph above, the person on the extreme left, nearest the camera, is Mr Martin Ellenberger. He owned RET Butler's Pharmacy in Grahamstown for many years. He and his wife Patty now live in Somerset West.



The reunion in Sydney was a small and completely unstructured meeting of four Old Rhodian pharmacists at a lunch. From left to right they are Roger Price, Michael Kapelus, Prof Kanfer, A.N. Other (not a pharmacist: we don't even have a

name for him), and, extreme right, Errol Kaplan. Roger Price was in the final year class of '61, and Mike Kapelus and Errol Kaplan a few years earlier. (The lady behind Prof Kanfer isn't a part of the group, but perhaps wanted to be.)

community engagement



Pharmacy in the local community

A university rests, primarily, on the integrated foundations of teaching and research. But human activity, as a global social phenomenon, and the on-going imbalances between our successes and failures (and perhaps some confusion as to which is which) have resulted in the need, in many countries, for a third plinth to the foundation: that of community engagement. (It is of course true that teaching young people is in itself a community engagement of a powerful sort, but – predictably - it has proved insufficient in many areas to ameliorate the circumstances of the great wad of humanity beyond the lecture halls and

laboratories. It is this large and growing sector that is now referred to as ‘the community’.)

Rhodes has a Division of Community Engagement, and a Distinguished Award for Community Engagement was established in 2008. We’re happy to report that the Awards for 2008 and 2009 went to members of the Faculty of Pharmacy: Wendy Wrench (2008) and Sunitha Srinivas (2009). Regrettably both of these staff members have left for other pastures, but community engagement continues to be a large and effective part of the Faculty’s activities.

The Phelophepa train

‘Phelophepa’ means ‘good, clean health’ in Sotho and Venda. In the context of health care – and thus of community service – it is the name of a train that goes around South Africa providing free or heavily subsidised medical/health services to South Africa’s many indigent citizens. The train has operated since 1993. In 2012 a second train was added to the phelophepa enterprise, and the healthcare capacity has been doubled. An estimated six million people have received direct health benefits from the phelophepa service. Some estimates are as high as 14 million.

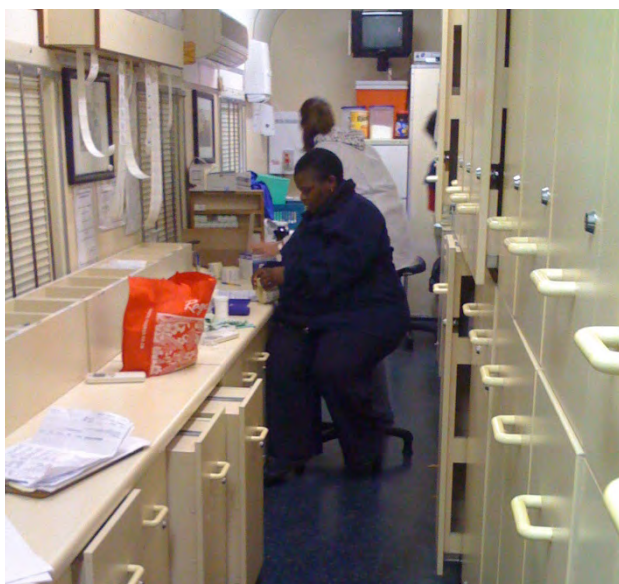
The trains are owned and operated by Transnet, and the pharmaceutical company Roche is the main sponsor of the project.

Groups of Rhodes pharmacy students – along with many other volunteer helpers – are given the opportunity to work on the train for a week at a time. They gain a great deal of hands-on health care experience from these visits. Pictograms developed in our Faculty by Prof Dowse and her students are routinely used on the train – as indeed elsewhere throughout the world. The train visited Grahamstown – as it then was – in 2009, when Prof Dowse’s pictograms were formally handed over to the phelophepa pharmacists.

The trains can of course no longer call at Makhanda – see our section on the station - so our students are taken to the train for their stint of voluntary service.



People wait outside the train for professional attention.



Inside one of the carriages of the train.

SciFest

Another on-going aspect of community service is the annual SciFest National Science Festival, which draws school children from many parts of South Africa. Happily, the national roads are still in a condition that allows this access.

Since the inception of the National Science Festival in the '70s, Rhodes University has been a major

contributor to the festival, and the Pharmacy Faculty has been well represented every year.

Some images of Pharmacy at SciFest through the decade. (See also Pharmacy's presentation at SciFest 2018, in the report of the Division of Pharmaceutics, earlier in the review.)



news of and
from staff; past
and present



Professor Beverley Glass – from Australia.

Professor Beverley Glass is a Distinguished Visiting Professor, and is a past member of our Faculty. She is currently the Chair of Pharmacy in the College of Medicine and Dentistry at James Cook University (JCU) in Townsville Australia. She writes:



A Rhodes University BPharm (1977) and PhD (1982) graduate, followed by a lecturing position in the Faculty which saw me appointed to the Chair of Pharmaceutical Chemistry, provided me with a springboard to accept a position as an Associate Professor in Pharmacy at JCU in 2001. To lead the development of the curriculum for a new pharmacy program presented both a challenge and an extremely exciting opportunity and as such I played a pivotal role in the design of the modern integrated pharmacy programme at JCU. I was subsequently appointed as the Professor (Head of Pharmacy) and Foundation Chair (2005) and during this time the pharmacy programme was accredited with the Australian Pharmacy Council. The JCU pharmacy graduates are highly regarded by the profession and the graduates themselves, through the *Good Universities Guide*, have ranked the Pharmacy Program the best in Australia. My commitment to the profession of pharmacy was recognised when in 2009 I was awarded

Queensland's highest honour for a pharmacist, *The Bowl of Hygieia*, by the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia (Queensland Branch). This was an acknowledgment of my major influence on the development and ongoing direction of the Bachelor of Pharmacy program at JCU.

Having moved on from a management role, my current focus is doing what I love - teaching and research. I am thrilled to have been able to share my passion with the students and staff in the Faculty of Pharmacy at Rhodes as a Visiting Professor, and to have received a Distinguished Professor Award from Rhodes University in 2014, which allowed me to spend six weeks in the Faculty. The lectures I delivered had an obvious role to play in contributing to the internationalisation of the degree at Rhodes, and in exposing the students to aspects of international pharmacy practice. The Faculty does however enjoy a global footprint as evidenced by that fact I have, in the last two years, met up with Dr Carmen Oltmann at the Life Long Learning Conference in Pharmacy in Brisbane, Australia, and Andy Gray, a graduate like myself and a Rhodes Visiting Fellow, at FIP in Abu Dhabi, UAE. I am certainly committed to a long-term involvement with the Faculty and the University and very proud that it continues in the tradition of being a tertiary institution *Where Leaders Learn*.



How two women from the Faculty of Pharmacy became great women in the Middle Kingdom.

不到长城非好汉，你们是好汉

(If you do not reach the Great Wall, you are not a true man)

Dr Leonie Goosen and Prof Wilson-Ramstad recently visited China. Here is their account of the adventure.

In October and November 2019 Prof Beverley Wilson and Dr Leonie Goosen were invited by Prof Yu Pei, Executive Vice-Dean of the International School of Jinan University in Guangzhou, People's Republic of China, to give lectures and have curriculum discussions.

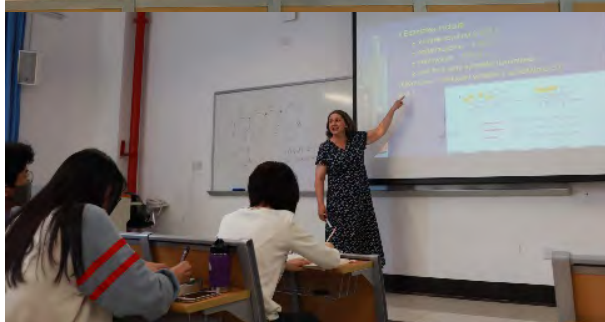
Prof Wilson gave a very successful talk on the PharmD programme. The chair of the meeting

was an 86-year-old professor! There were many questions and enquiries afterwards and it continued into the celebratory meal with delicious Cantonese food that we had after the lecture.

Of course, no journey to China is complete without visiting some of the famous sites. We were deeply touched by the hospitality, kindness and generosity extended to us by the people of this wonderful country wherever we went.



Photograph of the people who attended the lecture: Front third from left is Prof Wilson, then Dr Goosen followed by Prof Yu who invited us.



Dr Goosen spent two periods of four weeks teaching Medicinal Chemistry to Third Year BPharm students at the International School of Jinan University in 2018 and 2019.



A poster is usually displayed at the entrance of the International School Building to announce lectures by Distinguished International Visitors. Here is Prof Wilson standing next to her poster before her lecture



It was raining a bit on the day we visited the Great Wall at Mutianyu outside Beijing. The atmosphere was beautiful and mysterious. Prof Wilson went up to the Wall in the style of an Empress of the Qin Empire.



Everyone wanted to have their picture taken with Prof Wilson. She was a real celebrity. She was continuously admired for her strength to take on such a journey all the way from Nan Fei (South Africa). Here she is with a young woman dressed in a traditional costume of the Yao minority group on a mountain top in the Longsheng (Dragon's Backbone) Rice Terraces north of Guilin in Guangxi Province.



A Dream come true: An uncle allowed Dr Goosen to play Traditional Chinese Music on his Erhu in Baishe Ancient Town, Yunnan Province, close to the border with Myanmar. The Erhu is an ancient Chinese instrument with two strings and a bow similar to that of a violin. The melodies are simple but hauntingly beautiful and relatively easy to learn.



Prof Wilson and Dr Goosen almost at the top of the Great Wall.



A Dream come true: Prof Wilson with a view of a part of Pit 1, the largest of three pits at the Terracotta Warriors Site. The Warriors and other artefacts were commissioned by Emperor Qin Shi Huang when he ascended the throne at the age of 13 in 246 BCE. They were buried with the emperor in 210-209 BCE to protect him in his afterlife.



Of course one has to have Peking Duck in Peking! Prof Wilson became an expert at eating all her food with chopsticks.



Prof Wilson in front of the painting of Chairman Mao on Tian'anmen (Tian'an Gate), which is the entrance to the Emperor's Palace aka the Forbidden City. It overlooks Tian'anmen Square in the centre of Beijing.

Yoland Irwin writes from a cold Norway

For readers who know who I am, you have probably passed through Rhodes Pharmacy some time in the last 24 years. I started at Rhodes as an eager first year in 1996 and earned my BPharm in 1999. There is something about having been at Rhodes which innately bonds you to others who also studied or taught at Rhodes, even if not from the same time period. I have certainly been moulded by the institution, and indeed the Faculty, to be who I am today. In 2019, after having been teaching in the Faculty since 2006, I left my post there.

My family decided this was the time to embark on our biggest risk and adventure ever, and move overseas. Now I am sure you are thinking that a reasonably sane person would have chosen a place that at least speaks English, but alas the job front in Australia, New Zealand and Canada was not producing opportunities in academia for my husband. But a very long and narrow country in the most northern part of Europe was. And that is how we happened to move to Norway.

As any of you who have already taken this leap of faith and let yourself have the adventure of leaving the comfort zone of your home country will know, moving across the world comes with many challenges along with the rewards. Rewards have been that we are now able to walk around the streets at night, have no fence and forget to lock the door. Children are left to walk

and catch busses alone from age six here. Challenges have been dealing with losing all that you know and replacing it with the new.

Luckily, I have been equipped with a few life skills that my pharmacy degree didn't know was part of the curriculum.

Firstly, you learn to speak to strangers. So far I have been to six months' worth of Norwegian language lessons, and I am now able to tell people my name and order a hamburger. I am also learning about my new environment and city and will soon be educating the eager (English) holiday makers from cruise ships about fjords, glaciers and the Norwegian resistance movement from WW2.

Secondly, you learn to manufacture goods out of raw materials. Pharmaceuticals might never have been my strongest academic subject, but it has taught me all sorts of transferable, manufacturing skills. It's just cooking after all, but this time I am not getting a result of suppositories that stay together (or stick to the roof of the lab), or a cream base that doesn't crack. I have had to learn about making jellies from the berries growing in the forests and chutney to survive in a place without Mrs Balls. All my pharmacognosy lessons have paid off too because if you want anything to taste half decent here, you need to add your own spices. And spices are not easily purchased in a supermarket. I



have discovered a few hidden-away places where you can find bulk dried spices resulting in the manufacture of an acceptable version of Nando's peri peri sauce and sweet thai chilli sauce.

Lastly, being a pharmacist has instilled resilience and the ability to cope with stress and change. You are constantly challenged during your degree and career to cope under pressure, to meet deadlines and juggle many things at once whilst keeping your composure.

Many of you have been in a similar situation to me, undergone change and had to adjust to new settings. I hope you can look back fondly on your time of attaining a BPharm from Rhodes, and notice now that your "all rounded Pharmacy degree" which we tried to educate you in, can have the life-long consequence of making you adaptable and able to conform to all environments.

Honour for Prof Walker

For the first time in the history of the South African Pharmacy Council (SAPC) Pioneer Pharmacy Awards, one of the Pioneer Pharmacy Awards has been awarded to an academic. Rhodes University's Professor of Pharmaceutics, Rod Walker, walked away with the prestigious award during a gala dinner which was held at Sun City.

The SAPC Pioneer Pharmacy Awards are held every three years culminating the proceedings of the National Pharmacy Conference in order to recognise pharmacy professionals and facilities from community, public/private institutions, industry, academic and other sectors as leaders in the provision of quality pharmaceutical services. The SAPC encourages all pharmacy professionals to participate.

“It is an honour and a privilege to win this award and to be the first academic to be recognised by both the Pharmacy Council and the profession. This is extremely exciting and makes me feel that all this hard work has been worth it and it showcases what we do in the Faculty of Pharmacy at Rhodes University,” said Prof Walker, who says he could not have achieved the recognition were it not for the support of his colleagues. “This is not just an award for me, but it recognises that we are doing something right as a Faculty and the University in this respect,” he said.

The Head and Dean of Pharmacy, Associate Professor Sandile Khamanga, congratulated Prof Walker and said: “It would have been an injustice if such a brilliant person was not rewarded for all his great contributions to Pharmacy in South Africa. I am glad that his dedication, enthusiasm, insight and hard work has paid off. It is such a pleasure to work with someone who knows how to make an inspiring work environment.”

One of Prof Walker's PhD students and Pharmaceutics Lecturer, Pedzisai Makoni, is



one of the people who submitted a motivation for him to be recognised. Professor Walker is his supervisor for his PhD research and a mentor at the Faculty. He said: “Professor Walker's joint mentorship and supervision skills have granted me the opportunity to acquire special first-hand skills and experience in the use of various state-of-the-art research equipment used in academia and production. He is making a major contribution to the advancement of teaching, learning and research in the field of Pharmaceutical Nanotechnology at the academic institution.”

In his office, Prof Walker has a wall full of pictures of his past postgraduates and says, whenever he is feeling frustrated and uninspired, he looks at the pictures and he thinks: “They are the reason I am doing this”.

(Report contributed by a member of the University's administrative staff.)

Professor Sunitha Srinivas

Professor Sunitha Srinivas is a past member of our Faculty, and one of the Faculty's Visiting Professors. She has headed her report 'A decade in pursuit of excellence':

The last ten years have been full of extraordinarily humbling and exciting adventures. My career at the Faculty of Pharmacy began in 2003, working in Pharmacy Practice and community- engaged research. In 2008 I directed my research, teaching, and learning towards public health and social science. This led to working on a new rational use of medicines project at the Policy, Access and Rational Use Unit, World Health Organization, Geneva from May to July 2008. This involved developing a rapid assessment tool to field test, map and analyse the status of the rational use of medicines programs in low and middle-income countries. Dr. Kathy Holloway, with whom I worked on this project, moved to the South East Asian regional Office (SEARO) as regional advisor, and used this tool in several countries after the field-tested version of this instrument was standardised.

Prof. Patnala and I facilitated a Memorandum of Understanding between KLE University and Rhodes University in 2010. My collaboration with Prof. Srinivas Patnala, Dr Ganachari, and others from KLE University drew in research opportunities for four postgraduate students in Pharmacy Practice and mentored two PhD students in Pharmaceutics to conduct parts of their research at the Rhodes and KLE Universities.

My interest in public health and social science directed my research to maternal and child health in rural Eastern Cape communities near Grahamstown. I was one of nine recipients of the Sandisa Imbewu funding from Rhodes University in 2011. This timeous funding supported the community-engaged study, and my students conducting it. My teaching relied on community-engaged, international, and transformational sources to guide my undergraduate students through their place as health professionals in South Africa. For those who left South Africa to pursue their careers abroad, my teaching style and sources equipped them to remain consciously cosmopolitan in public health. My efforts as an educator were rewarded with the 2011 Commendation Award, jointly made by the



Council on Higher Education and the Higher Education Learning & Teaching Association of Southern Africa.

My continued passion for public health and social science led to the 2011 University of Oxford Fellowship, awarded under the Association of Commonwealth Universities Titular Fellowship. This Fellowship supported my research from July to August 2014 at the British Heart Foundation Centre on Population Approaches for NCD Prevention, Nuffield Department of Population Health, University of Oxford. The collaborations from this time led to four Community-engaged research projects focused on peer educators at Rhodes University in the area of health promotion to address non-communicable diseases, with a co-supervisor,

Dr. Nick Townsend from the British Heart Foundation Centre on Population Approaches for NCD Prevention. This fruitful collaboration, the first of its kind between the British Heart Foundation Centre on Population Approaches for NCD Prevention and South Africa, led to exciting learning and publishing opportunities for my post-graduate students. Additionally, as an educator I have had the immense pleasure of being recognised for my effort. I was the recipient of the inaugural Internationalization Award at Rhodes University in 2014, and the 2014 National Excellence in Teaching and Learning Awards, jointly made by the Council on Higher Education and the Higher Education Learning & Teaching Association of Southern Africa (HELTASA).

In an effort to contribute further to the University, and represent the Faculty, I was elected to serve on the University Senate committee in 2015. This was a tremendous learning experience as an academic and offered enormous insight. It was around this time that I increased my efforts to dynamically alter my research to better engage with the community. To achieve this I supervised four masters' students over four years for a project series I conceptualised using the community-based participatory approach. This project series featured in the UNESCO e-book on community-university research partnership³. This boost in international recognition encouraged a successful application to the Talloires Network University Education for Transformative Leadership in Africa Mini-Grants in 2015 for Community-Engaged faculty and staff. This network of 388 universities in 77 countries, with a combined enrolment of over six

million students, is an international association of institutions committed to strengthening the civic roles and social responsibilities of higher education. The program awarded ten individuals at universities throughout the African continent working in community-engaged teaching, research and scholarship. Receiving this recognition also meant that I had an opportunity to give a presentation at Tufts University, Boston, USA while I was in Boston to present my research at an international conference at Harvard.

After promotion and becoming the first female Professor in the Faculty at the time, my research rating application to the National Research Foundation in 2017 was successful. I was awarded a C2 rating, and I am the first female academic in the Faculty of Pharmacy at Rhodes University to have received NRF rating.

My ties to Rhodes University and the Faculty of Pharmacy have remained strong and supportive through my most recent Memorandum of Understanding between four Pharm D programmes in Bangalore, India. This collaboration between the Pharm D programmes; Karuna Trust, an NGO and Rhodes University was signed in 2019 for community-engaged research, to synergise the interests of Rhodes staff and students alike.

I have always maintained a deep-rooted interest in the success and growth of all my collaborators, and I am glad to have contributed the very best to the University and Faculty over the past ten years. I look forward to continuing the research-centered association as a visiting professor.

3 Their weblink highlights that "With over 25 contributing authors from all over the world, this is the first book of its kind to provide a rich overview of the landscape of partnership research addressing societies most pressing issues. Inspiring institutional transformation, this roadmap to change provides illustrative country case studies that are pioneering innovation in all sectors". http://unescochair-cbrsr.org/unesco/pdf/UNESCO%20Book%20Web_with%20BookCovers_Aug202015_FINAL.pdf

Dr Srin Patnala

Dr Srin Patnala has not been a member of the tenured Faculty staff. As noted at the beginning of this Review his status is that of Visiting Fellow, and he has had a long and productive association with the Faculty. He briefly visited us just before we went to press, and has given us a report, from which we have extracted the following. He has written in the third-person:

In 2010, Dr Patnala bid *adieu* to Rhodes University and joined KLE University in Belgaum, India, as Professor

of Pharmaceutical Analysis, later becoming the first Deputy Director of Basic Sciences Research Centre.

As a researcher/faculty member and being associated with Rhodes University over eight years (2003-2010), Prof. Patnala initiated research collaboration between KLE and RU by establishing a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to engage in supervision and mentoring of postgraduate students through exchange programmes. In the process,

two PhD students in association with Prof I. Kanfer graduated at KLE University and also generated four peer reviewed publications. However, due to important family commitments and to don the role of full-time-father to his son – Samai Patnala (2012), he returned to Grahamstown and joined the Department of Chemistry as a Guest Faculty member (2013-2016) – to lecture on analytical methods and also involve himself in mentoring and postgraduate Research at Rhodes University.

Mike Wisch

Mike Wisch writes, from a very successful business at the top of High Street, Makhandla:

After leaving full-time employment as a lecturer in Pharmacy, I continued to teach Pharmaceutics, Pharmaceutical Chemistry, Pharmacology and Foundations of Pharmacy as

a contract lecturer from 2009 to 2016, to an assortment of first, second, third and fourth year students. I greatly enjoyed my time and experience over those eight years and hope I helped make the subject matter enjoyable to those who were in my charge.



Lucie Allan

Lucie Allan has sent us the following report:

Ms Lucie Allan was a member of the teaching staff between 2013 and 2017. She was a lecturer in the Pharmacy Practice Division and taught courses on Law, Ethics, and Professionalism. She also offered a fourth-year elective on Medicines in Health

Systems which included the role of the pharmacy profession in the National Health Insurance system.

During this period she attended the 1st Global Symposium on Health Systems Research in Montreux, Switzerland, as well as the 3rd Global Symposium on Health Systems Research in Cape Town, South Africa.

She collaborated with the university's Institute for Social and Economic Research (ISER) to produce the following research publication: Surender, R., Van Niekerk, R., Hannah, B., Allan, L., Shung-King, M. (2015). The drive for universal healthcare in South Africa: views from private general practitioners. *Health Policy and Planning*, 30: 759 - 767

Dave and Sally Morley

It could be said that Dave and Sally Morley held the Faculty's laboratories together during their many years on the staff. Dave joined the University in 1982 and Sally in 1987. Both of them retired in 2015 and are living in Makhanda with frequent sorties overseas to visit their recently-acquired granddaughter, Willow.

John Haigh writes:

Dave Morley was the Pharmaceutical Chemistry Technical Officer in the Faculty for 31 years. He and his wife, Sally, came to us from Papua New Guinea. Dave was an excellent technician and organised several thousand practicals for me and the other lecturers in the Pharm. Chem. Section over those 31 years. Not once was there a problem in any one of those practicals, a testament to Dave's accuracy and commitment to his work. Making those unknowns for the Instrumental Analysis practicals was a real job of work! I can honestly say that I couldn't have had better support from any technician than I got from Dave Morley.

And Sirion Robertson writes:

I was extremely fortunate to have Sally Morley in charge of the laboratory in which the students in the course did all their practical work. Her responsibilities in the Faculty included



considerably more than just the Anatomy and Physiology laboratory, but her energy, enthusiasm and pro-active work style made it seem, to me, that she had no other demands on her time. She and Dave were very well liked by the students, because they were always helpful and willing to give of their time, and advice, in matters that were not strictly within their 'job description'. In fact I don't think either of them gave much attention to the refinements of 'job description': they cheerfully and efficiently did what needed to be done. I don't remember ever having to ask Mrs Morley to do anything. I usually woke up to the need long after she had done it. Sally and Dave were a great asset to the Faculty.

Clinton Rambanapasi, PhD

| Regulatory Scientist | Pharmaceutical Scientist | Creative Disruptor |

On the eve of going to press we received an email from Dr Clinton Rambanapasi, whom we mention in our timeline. Consistently with our policy, we have included his contribution as we received it.

Period at RU: Oct 2015 - Aug 2016

Roles at RU: Lecturer and researcher. Convened lectures to 2nd and 3rd year pharmaceuticals modules covering topics such as powder technology, dosage form manufacturing and quality management systems. Started co-supervising two masters

students with Prof Khamanga.

Highlight during the short stint at RU: being part of the Rhodes University wider community - a really progressive community in terms of social justice campaigns from the student body, high achievements of academics and living in the slow yet fast paced life.

Lowest point at RU: the moment I decided to leave because of a misalignment between my expectations and reality.

in memoriam



Professor Ben Potgieter

Professor Potgieter joined Rhodes in 1976, as Head of the School of Pharmacy (which was then a department within the Science Faculty). He took over from Prof Egil Ramstad, and remained on the staff until his retirement. Prof Potgieter was one of the people who saw the desirability of the department becoming a faculty. That status was achieved in 1979 and Prof Ben, as he was affectionately known, became the first Dean of Pharmacy at Rhodes.

His childhood was spent in what was then South West Africa (mainly in Omaruru), where his father was a magistrate. In a contribution to one of our early faculty reviews, Ben wrote that he had taken up pharmacy as a career 'because pharmacies smelt nice'. He was a graduate of the University of Potchefstroom, and his postgraduate specialisation was in pharmacology.

Prof Ben had wide interests, in both the sciences and the arts. (One of his first pieces of work on arriving here, was to spray-paint his office filing cabinet a burgundy colour, using a very small spray gun.) He was a keen and accomplished photographer, and used the department's darkroom to produce large colour prints of his young family (this of course was in the pre-digital era). He also dabbled in pottery, and was interested in cameras and cars – especially elderly ones.

He was greatly liked, and held in very high regard,

personally and professionally, by his colleagues (probably without exception – an unusual situation indeed) and by the many students who passed through the department/faculty during his 24 years on the academic staff. He would arrive for his lectures without the usual carefully-written notes of the typical university academic, but with a handful of journal reprints. The students enjoyed his lectures and they recognised that they got their money's worth from him at the lectern.

Here are two comments, voiced at his memorial service by his friend and colleague, Professor Ian Wiseman: 'If the definition of success is to be respected by those who know you best, Ben exemplified success'. And another friend and colleague, Professor Terry McCarthy, wrote, from New Zealand, '... he was a gentleman and a scholar in every sense of the word, and academia can be proud to have had a person of his qualities in its ranks.'

Ben had a large and well-equipped mind, which he used as a playground as well as a workplace. There was plenty of space in it for relaxation and reflection, and he enjoyed sharing thoughts, ideas and laughter with friends. Laughter and fun were seldom far from his surface, even when his professional persona was in charge. He was very much a family man.

(Supplied by Sirion Robertson)

Dr Mike Skinner

Emeritus Professor Izzy Kanfer writes as follows:

Mike Skinner was a former graduate student of mine. More importantly, Mike was an extremely well-informed and reliable colleague, but most importantly he was a true and trusted friend. Nothing ever seemed to deter or upset Mike in his daily duties and encounters where his disposition always displayed friendliness and optimism. He undertook all his commitments with great zeal, competence and dedication and his sincerity, reliability and amicable countenance made him a likeable person right from a first introduction. Mike was also a very good teacher who always showed a great deal of patience and understanding and his scientific contributions in his area of expertise have been of great benefit to academia, his colleagues in the

pharmaceutical industry and, of course, to his staff and students in the BRI. Mike was also quite a private person where he preferred to keep certain things to himself, in particular his health condition where he never complained and remained stoic with optimism and great perseverance.

In bidding farewell, I salute Mike as my dear and beloved friend, a true gentleman and exceptional scientist, someone whom I will never forget and who I had the privilege of knowing and having been closely associated with him for a period of over thirty years.

Our deepest condolences and prayers are with his brother Richard, Donna and family and his loved ones.

Mr Len Paton

I met Len in 1971 and got to know him well as a colleague and friend. As a colleague he taught me some pharmacology, and as a friend he taught me a lot about photography.

Len grew up in Benoni. At school he came into contact with South Africa's most famous boxing family – the Toweels. (Vic Toweel was World bantamweight champion (May 1950-November 1952): the first South African to hold a world title.) Len used to say it was something of an honour to have had a black eye from one of the Toweel schoolchildren.

Len had wide-ranging interests, a well-stocked mind and an always-accessible sense of humour. It never descended to vulgarity or unkindness.

He came to Rhodes as a senior student. Before that he had spent some interesting years as a prospector for precious metals in what was then South West Africa (now Namibia). He became accustomed to roughing it and walking long distances through open bush was an enduring interest which probably started in those days. He and I once set off on foot from Grahamstown (as it was then called) to release a laguaan in suitable surroundings. We must have covered a large part of the Eastern Cape before Len found exactly the right place. Driving massive vehicles in South West Africa gave him a permanent tinnitus in later life.

Len was a talented and creative photographer, and for many years was one of the stalwarts of the Albany Photographic Society, serving for some time as its Chairman. He passed on some of his expertise to several cycles of final-year pharmacy students who enrolled for the elective course on photography. He was also a keen sailor, and was Vice-Commodore of the Grahamstown Yacht Club. He was a Knight of da Gama, and served at least one term as head of the local group.

Len derived pleasure from promoting the interests of others. It was at least partly for this reason that he did not complete his doctoral studies. Another reason was that through all the years in the Pharmacy Faculty he carried, cheerfully and well, a heavy teaching load, both in the lecture theatre and the laboratory.

The news of his passing brought letters and messages from several close friends and past colleagues. Prof Ben Potgieter wrote of Len's "generosity of friendship, time, ideas and humour, of his capacity for problem-solving, his humility and his artistic flair." Prof Beverley Wilson-Ramstad mentioned his deep love of nature, particularly botany and geology, and recalled Len's regular walking tours around the campus with students, pointing out medicinal and poisonous plants. Dr Natie Finkelstein said that Len was a "legend in his time", and that "many pharmacy students' knowledge of pharmacology could be ascribed to his indefatigable effort and excellent teaching. He will be remembered with much affection and admiration."

Much of Len's health and vitality deserted him in his last years. On one occasion, when he was in Settlers' Hospital, I asked how he was feeling. He said "a little depressed". But he didn't elaborate, and he never lost his gentle dignity and agreeable disposition. The last time I saw him was in a sunny bedroom in Brookshaw, and he remarked that he was looking forward to going home.

My wife and I were in Cape Town when he died, and the day after the news reached us we were having breakfast with a friend and ex-colleague, Tina Ehlers. Tina had been a student of Len's, and when we told her of his passing she remarked: "he was an excellent lecturer".

And he was a gentleman.

(Supplied by Sirion Robertson)

Professor Roy Jobson

Roy Jobson was a medical doctor who specialised in clinical pharmacology. He quickly established himself as a very valuable member of the Pharmacology Division, the Faculty, and within the Rhodes community in general. He immediately fell into the routine of the Faculty, and made friends easily. This obituary has been prepared by members of the staff who came to know him moderately well, and we have included information and comments obtained from published sources at the time of his tragically premature death.

Roy was head of the Division of Pharmacology, and served on the University's Ethical Standards Committee. As chair of that Committee he played a key role in facilitating its restructuring.

Roy was an easy-going, warm and friendly person. He was heroically casual in his attire, but he was a man of strong beliefs and principles which he applied in both the personal and professional areas of his life. He and his wife, Marjorie, who is also a medical doctor, shared a deep concern for social justice, particularly in terms of equality of access to health care and advice. Marje has written 'He was a true equal partner. We shared the same vision of trying to make a real difference and to stand up for things we believed in'. She described him as 'a wonderful human being'.

In the wake of his death he was described in the media as 'a giant in SA health, who fought against quackery'.

A colleague and head of SAHPRA (South African Healthcare Products Regulatory Authority) wrote 'I would like to echo the sadness that has been expressed by so many colleagues at the passing of Roy Jobson who was a truly unique man. His passion for medicines and for public health was underpinned by his belief in equity and honesty. He made a great contribution to medicines regulation in South Africa and to the health community more broadly. These special contributions will be hard to replace.'

We in the Faculty of Pharmacy at Rhodes will remember Roy with great warmth and respect. With his intellect, his humanitarian interests, and the medical qualifications and experience he accumulated, it was inevitable that he would become a major and highly respected figure in South African healthcare. With his deeply held and inflexible social commitments and beliefs it was perhaps also inevitable that he would find himself strongly opposed, on some issues, to other members of the healthcare profession. In such areas he expressed himself fearlessly and honestly, and those with whom he occasionally disagreed were never in any doubt as to his stature and integrity as a human being.

He was also a deeply-committed family man, and was tremendously proud of his two children; Janet (the recipient of a Mandela-Rhodes Scholarship) and Geoffrey. To them, and to his wife Marje we express our deep sympathy.

Mr Collin Nontyi

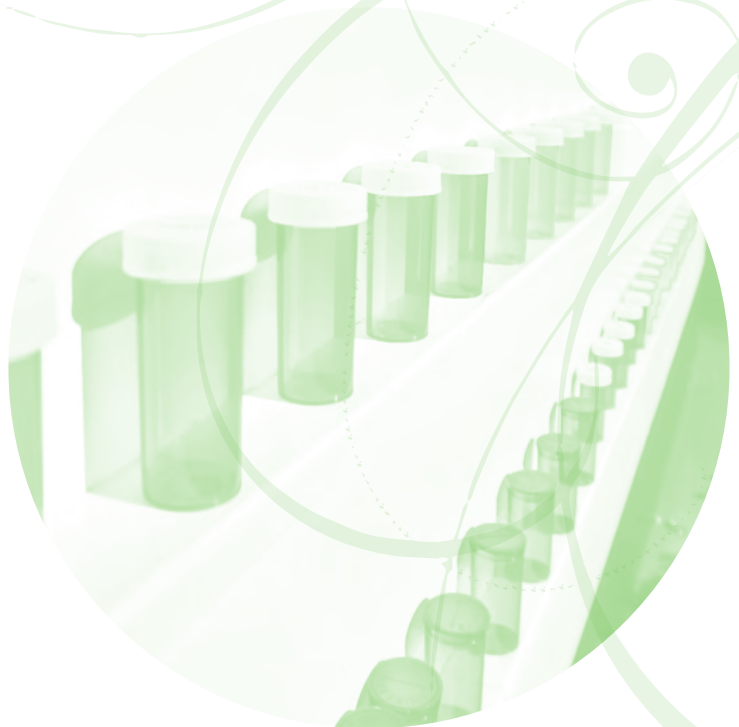
Just before we went to press, news of Collin Nontyi's passing reached us. Here is the announcement put out to the university community by the Head and Dean of Pharmacy.

It is with great sadness that the Faculty of Pharmacy notifies the university community of the passing of Mr Collin Thobile Nontyi, who was a Principal Technical Officer in the Division of Pharmaceutics. Mr Nontyi took early retirement in April 2018. He joined the Faculty of Pharmacy (when it was still known as the School of Pharmaceutical Sciences) as a temporary laboratory assistant in 1982 when he was an undergraduate student at the University of Fort Hare, during the days of severe disruption

of the academic programme. It is gratifying that he took advantage of the university's dispensation which enabled him to register for a single science course annually until he was awarded a BSc degree in 1993.

His death is an unexpected shock to all of us who have known him and worked closely with him. Our deepest condolences to his family, friends, colleagues, former students and to all those whose lives he touched. His many contributions to the students and his Faculty colleagues will be warmly remembered.

a glance into 2020





From the vantage point of Friday 6 March, (just before this document goes to press) staff members look confidently forward into the beckoning hinterland of 2020. (The group decision was that we wouldn't worry with names.)



A new group of postgraduates, with (centre, seated), Ms Tanusha Dukhan, of the Pharmacology Division. They look more than ready for the challenges of the year.

Staff of the faculty in 2020

Dean and Head of the Faculty

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

Pharmaceutics

Professor of Pharmaceutics

RB Walker BPharm, PhD (Rhodes) MPS(SA)

Associate Professor

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

Senior Lecturer and Head of Division

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

Lecturer

P Makoni BPharm, MSc (Pharm) (Rhodes)

Pharmaceutical Chemistry

Associate Professor and Head of Division

SD Kanye BSc (Hons) (Wits), MSc (Wits), PhD (UCT)

Associate Professor

R Tandlich MS (SUT), PhD (NDSU)

Senior Lecturers

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

NP Ngqwala BSc (Hons) (UFH), MSc, PhD (Rhodes)

Lecturer

Pharmacy Practice

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 (Rhodes), MPharm (Rhodes)

F Chiwanza BPharm (Rhodes), MPharm (Rhodes)

GZ Ngodwane BPharm, (Rhodes)

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

Pharmacology

Professor of Pharmacology

Vacant

Associate Professor and Head of Division

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

Associate Professor of Clinical Pharmacy

Vacant

Senior Lecturer

Vacant

Lecturer

H Walsh PhD (Rhodes)

Lecturer, Anatomy & Physiology

N. Sibiya BMed Sci (Hons) (UKZN), PhD (UKZN)

T Dukhan BHSc, BHSc Hons, MSc (Med) (Wits)

Instrument Scientist

S. Abboo PhD (Rhodes)

Honorary Appointments

Visiting Professors

MP Ducharme BA, BPharm, RPEBC, DPH (Montreal), PharmD (Wayne State), FCCP, FCP

RK Verbeeck BSc (Pharmacy), PhD (KULeuven)

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)

Research Associate

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

Emeritus Professors

I Kanfer BSc (Pharm), BSc (Hons), PhD (Rhodes), MRPharmS, FPS(SA)

JM Haigh BSc (Pharm), BSc (Hons) (Rhodes), PhD (UCT), MRPharmS, MPS(SA)

Emeritus Associate Professors

BJ Wilson MSc (Sask), PhD (Purdue)

WT Futter BCom, MCom (Rhodes), ACIS

R Dowse BPharm, PhD (Rhodes), MPS(SA)

Clinical Associates

GPG Boon MBChB (UCT), FCP(SA)(Paed)

S Meintjes BPharm (UWC), BTech, MBA (PE Tech)

AG Parrish MBChB, MMed (UCT), MMedSc (Newcastle), FCP(SA)

A short review of faculty support staff



Niall Borland writes:

I joined the Faculty of Pharmacy as manager of administration and technical support in 2011, part of the way through this review period. At that stage we had two administration staff and nine technical staff, with 395 undergraduate students. Leon Purdon and Dave and Sally Morley, three of the technical staff, were nearing retirement so there was an opportunity for bringing in new staff. Staff development and training was paramount. With some further restructuring of technical staff, the technical component was reduced to just six staff members and now, in 2019, the undergraduate numbers have grown to 682 along with a steady increase in postgraduate numbers over the review period.

The administration unit has remained unchanged over

these years, with Linda Emslie and Tanya Kent doing a wonderful job. Having now built up substantial institutional knowledge, it makes the cyclical nature of the administrative year flow more seamlessly. It has been a challenging time providing technical support with ageing infrastructure in terms of equipment and building structure. Making use of the same practical laboratories to accommodate almost double the number of students takes some ingenuity and innovation. I am proud of how the technical staff, Amanda Zuma, Sibusiso Ngxingo, Xolani Rasana, Thando Fleck and Likhaya Hempe have supported the academic project with true grit and fortitude. I look forward to the future challenges and opportunities as we modernise our operations and prepare for a building refurbishment.



This picture is a small vote of thanks to the mainstays of the Faculty's Administrative Section: Tanya Kent (left) and Linda Emslie. Many thanks for all your hard work and enduring good nature under frequent pressure.

The Quest for Excellence

Under the leadership of Professor Kanfer, the then Dean of the Faculty of Pharmacy, the “Quest for Excellence” initiative was started. The intention of the Quest was to raise funds in the then resource-constrained environment to ensure we could continue to offer the necessary support to undergraduate and postgraduate students to complete their degree at Rhodes University in a state-of-the art environment.

The support gained over the years permitted the leadership of the Faculty access to additional resources to maintain the first-class facilities in the Faculty and of course improve the library holdings amongst other activities.

Times are no different and the Faculty is still in need of alumni support to ensure that we remain competitive in what is an even more resource- constrained environment. Higher education funding is diminishing in real terms, student funding continues to be a challenge. Infrastructure and equipment is aging and therefore your support is needed more than ever.

Consequently, we would like to request you to consider donating to the “Quest for Excellence” in order for future students to be able to access a first-class education in Pharmacy. There are a variety of ways to provide support. You can contribute financially to the “Quest for Excellence”, or if that is not possible engage with the Dean, Professor Khamanga and open doors would allow him to share his vision for the Faculty to potential benefactors that could make a difference.

Some areas that would benefit directly from your support include, but are not limited to:

1. Funding for postgraduate and undergraduate students.
2. Funding to improve access to electronic teaching and learning resources.
3. Funding or in-kind donations of equipment.

For further information relating to the needs of the Faculty you can contact the Dean at the following email address **dean.pharmacy@ru.ac.za**

This brings us to the end of the Review. A few colleagues with whom I spoke while preparing it agreed with me that it should not focus exclusively on the up-beat, positive things – of which there are several. During the ‘high noon’ of apartheid one journalist described South Africa as a ‘darkening stage’ – because, obviously, of its socio-political policies. Those were indeed clouded years, and dark years for a large part of the population. Progress has been made, and there are grounds for ‘cautious optimism’, but the ‘darkening stage’ metaphor still hovers in the wings, albeit for different and more complex reasons.

Favourable circumstances – like good health and sufficient money – can be taken for granted and ignored. Unfavourable ones - like pain and poverty – require attention. Our Faculty, along with the universities, has always been actively concerned with the Country’s injustices, but it was legitimately possible to take much of the social fabric for granted and to get on with one’s professional interests. That is no longer the case. The fabric is decaying, and to ignore the fact would involve an unjustifiable evasion.

If the country is to move forward and upward, one thing is indisputable. Good health care, efficiently and ethically delivered, will be necessary every step of the way, and will be a major part of whatever successes are achieved.

Acknowledgements

A glance through this Review will show that it represents the work of several people. I thank all of them collectively, and I would like to thank by name a few who contributed beyond what might have been expected of them as members of Faculty.

First I must thank the Dean, Professor Sandile Khamanga, for having offered me the job of editor of the Review, and for having facilitated my task in various ways. He read the document in final draft, suggested one or two minor changes (which I implemented) and added several important points.

Professor Ros Dowse gave me a large amount of very useful material, including photographs, which she has accumulated in a magnificently orderly way through the years. She also responded graciously to a stream of emailed questions while I was putting the Review together. Finally she proof-read the entire document, and weeded out several typos and errors. Dr Carmen Oltmann fielded last-minute questions and provided some important details at the proof-reading stage. My wife, Dr Sally-Ann Robertson – not a pharmacist, but an Old Rhodian and long-time member of the Education Faculty – also proof-read the document, corrected some errors and made several helpful suggestions.

Mr Niall Borland, Manager: Administrative and Technical Support Staff, made available the substantial photographic archive that he has maintained over several years, and helped in various other ways.

The Faculty's administrative assistants, Ms Linda Emslie and Mrs Tanya Kent, have, as always, been very efficient and helpful in supplying information.

Outside the Faculty, the Research Office provided, and explained to me, the rather arcane data on the Faculty's research output during the period under review. The Human Resources Division gave me dates of arrival and departure of Faculty members during the reviewed period.

Ms Bronwyn Tweedie in the Design Office of the University's Print Services Unit, has done an excellent job on layout of the magazine.

It's not possible to please everybody, in respect of any endeavour – or, indeed, in respect of anything. With a great deal of help – some of which I acknowledge here – I have put together this Review of the Faculty's doings over the last decade. I hope it will be well received by at least some of the people who read it. Any errors, or parts of it that fall short of expectations, or are defective, are entirely my responsibility.

Sirion Robertson

Are you here?

If you did your final year in Pharmacy at Rhodes between 2009 and 2019 you should be able to find yourself in our picture gallery of staff and final-year students, which we reproduce on the following pages. The images are by courtesy of Mr Clint Bradfield, of FotoFirst, Makhanda. We apologise for the absence of names with the 2009 group photograph.



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