



RHODES UNIVERSITY

Where leaders learn

Faculty of Pharmacy

A review of 2020

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from the editor

In place of an editorial

Here – at last! – is the Faculty’s Review of 2020, and I am pleased to be able to offer it with this brief editorial introduction.

It is brief partly because, as on earlier occasions, I wasn’t sure what to put into it. What does one put into an editorial? The British editor, satirist and journalist Malcolm Muggeridge wrote amusingly and perceptively on this problem in an editorial in *Punch* – an upmarket humour magazine he edited from 1953 to ’57. (Muggeridge was an interesting and controversial public figure. Look him up in Wiki.)

As regards editorials in general, if the publication it introduces is worthwhile, no editorial introduction is necessary. And if the publication doesn’t stand on its own merits, no editorial will rescue it. I hope readers will agree with me that this Review does indeed stand very adequately on its own internal merits.

Apart from routine proof-reading and minor tweaking I have had very little to do with the contents – which is as it should be. I did have what I think was the good idea of asking the Registrar, Prof Adèle Moodly, to write an article as a kick-off for the Review, giving a general survey of the year from the overall viewpoint of the University. I’m delighted that she agreed to do so, and provided me, at short notice and notwithstanding her undoubtedly heavy work-load, with the article that serves as an introduction. It is far more informative than anything I could have produced

as an editorial. That is why I have called my contribution here ‘In place of an editorial’.

And of course we have, as usual, the report from the Dean of the Faculty – Professor Sandile Khamanga. He has provided details of how the Faculty itself has coped. With his report, and those of the Heads of Divisions, and other contributions, you will be able to form a very good – and positive – picture of the Faculty’s performance in those difficult and stressful times. (Times which are by no means fully passed.)

We (that is the editorial ‘we’, but it’s also me personally, and members of the Faculty), are particularly pleased to have received so many emails and photographs in response to our invitation to contact us with news of your recent doings. The section on news from our graduates is the biggest in the Review (check this in the list of contents if you want confirmation), and that is very gratifying. You haven’t forgotten us! And the Review itself will be seen, we hope, as providing some evidence that we haven’t forgotten you.

We apologise for the delay in producing the Review. My original timeframe proved to have been naïve. The Dean has remarked that we didn’t promise or commit ourselves to a specific date for release, and this is of course true. We haven’t broken any promises, but we have good reason to know that many of you wondered what had happened to it, and understandably expected it earlier in the year.

As I have remarked, the impact of the pandemic is still very much with us, and the Faculty staff are still operating in what might be called 'emergency mode'.

That, 'we' believe, is quite sufficient from 'us' by way of an editorial, or in place of an editorial. We hope you find things in the Review to interest you. We're quite sure you will find pictures and news of some of your friends from those important years of your lives.

All of us in the Faculty wish all of you a safe, happy, relaxed and restorative holiday season.

Sirion Robertson
Editor

The Cock House has recently acknowledged our local donkeys. It could be said, bilingually, that the artist used this wall for an e(a)sel.



from the registrar



Photograph by Sirion Robertson

A STATE OF NATIONAL DISASTER – RHODES UNIVERSITY AND THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

March 11 2020: The World Health Organisation (WHO) declares Covid-19 a pandemic. March 15 2020, the President of South Africa, Cyril Ramaphosa, declares the novel coronavirus a national disaster, announcing numerous stringent measures toward curbing its spread. As the world, including South Africa mobilised to comprehend this global crisis, the Vice-Chancellor and university leadership pursued a process of consultations, inclusive of deans, the SRC, directors and other stakeholders in seeking how best to respond to these statements. The potential impact on the University, its staff and students was considered, with opinions differing widely with regard to whether students should remain in Makhanda or whether term should end earlier. Already two days of lectures had been postponed in the wake of the breaking news. Rhodes University had to carve its path navigating this space. Unprecedented, there was no blue-print to follow in decision-making. What was this virus, what was its impact, how would we navigate the challenges (whatever these would be)? Guided by research and scientific information, eventually a decision was made. The recess would be brought forward and students would go home for this period. The challenge was to facilitate the process and three days of planning a process of facilitating students catching buses or planes, in a fast turn-around time was put together. Time was of the essence

as numerous bus-liners had already indicated that they would not be transporting passengers. The threat of borders shutting down before the University had safely attended to students leaving campus meant that work had to be done around the clock to address the pile of appeals from students who expressed reluctance and hesitance of various degrees to leave Makhanda. The VC's office was turned into an 'operations room' with a few members of academic and administrative staff, and members of the university leadership planning a process of financial support for bus tickets, criteria for decisions on appeals by students requesting to remain in Makhanda and decisions around international students. Time was against the team. The clock was ticking as the busses stopped running and borders were to be shut down. Lockdown was looming. The VC spent hours on the phone negotiating with bus companies for safe passage for Rhodes' students in the window period still open. The decision to expediently send students to the safety of their homes proved to be a wise one as most Rhodes students were home when the President announced a national 21-day lockdown 26 March-16 April 2020. What started as a short-term period was extended to the entire year of 2020, into 2021.

While Rhodes, as many in the country, hoped that the situation would pass quickly and that we

would return to normal, the reality slowly dawned that we were in this for the long haul. A return to normalcy was not as clear-cut. Restlessness stirred, as nationally the South African Union of Students (SAUS) demanded that no student be left behind and that the inequalities of our societal context should not broaden the gap of the rich and the poor. Rhodes' leadership, including faculty deans, struggled in charting a way forward in navigating teaching and learning through the pandemic. What was the academic year to look like going forward? Already time was being lost as the days of uncertainty grew. Concern increased with hundreds of mails to the registrar's inbox reflecting the anxiety of our students. Grounds for appeals to return to Makhanda were as diverse as boredom, to alcoholism in the family, and gender-based violence. For many of our students Rhodes is an escape and a haven from the traumatic realities of home-living. The mammoth task of deciding how to save the academic year, and actioning the principle of 'no student will be left behind' saw the deans and a few committed academic and administrative staff plotting a way forward in line with the DVC Academic and Student Affairs' call for mobility and agility in the academic project. Two pathways were followed, with printed packs sent to those students in areas without connectivity, and data and laptops (after contracts were signed) sent to others, as on-line learning became the mode of teaching and learning. Anxiety amongst staff grew steadily, with the university leadership and deans awash with exhaustion as demands from both staff and students came in fast and furious. A demand for a safe working environment with Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and protocols in place, saw the Acting Director: Human Resources work furiously and tirelessly on various guidelines, and the Deputy Director and her team in charge of residences, set up PPEs for staff. Under the guidance of Professor Rod Walker, the Pharmacy Faculty set up a project for the production of sanitiser in line with WHO regulations. CHERTL worked tirelessly to set up training sessions for academics who had either very little or no exposure to e-learning/on-line teaching and learning. Zoom became the mode of meetings and gatherings with very little distinction between day and night, as the lines of working hours and family and personal time blurred. Working from home added to the stress as families had to learn to keep down noise, space had to be found for a conducive

working environment and hours for eating or rest simply dissipated into the endless demands of planning and consultation meetings. Covid had forced us into the 4IR and the emotional and psychological toll drained everyone. The Deputy Vice-Chancellor: Innovation & Research, together with Information and Technology Services and the Student Bureau, worked tirelessly on return permits as the President relayed adjustments in lockdown levels and students continued to plead for a return to Makhanda. I & TS had to increase its pace tremendously in keeping up with the changes in the administrative systems as changes to academic rules were announced (in line with the principle of no student will be left behind). Change is not easy – and this became apparent in the slow move to on-line/remote teaching and learning, changes in assessment techniques, and the anxiety experienced in learning new ways of doing things. The road was long, blind and uncertain. Staff and students looked to the University leadership for direction.

The Deputy Vice-Chancellor: Academic & Student Affairs steadily led the on-line teaching and learning project, addressing fears and anxieties with patience, in her assurance that it was possible. She coaxed the academic project from the spaces of comfort and familiarity, into the uncharted waters of the 4IR. Deans came on board with their faculty leadership, heeding the call to move on-line and navigating the space, in line with the principles that the University had adopted of saving lives and no student will be left behind. The academic calendar was adjusted to the extent of catching up the time lost, but also mindful of not impacting tremendously on the 2021 academic year. Sadly, the hopes of many graduates and their loved ones were crushed with the realisation that this year there was not to be the treasured walk across the stage, capping by the Chancellor and hooding by the Registrar. Home walls and cabinets would not see these memories in photographs that are traditionally, proudly displayed. The traditional form of sit-down exams too had to be reconceptualised with the on-line mode posing its own challenges. These changes were not without resistance and trials, as a few did not see the logic and practicality in saving the academic year within the calendar year timeframes. The argument was for an extended year into 2021, and more time to complete the 2020 academic year. Constant reviews and

adjustments were made, as staff and the SRC requested flexibility.

But despite much resistance and bemoaning the state of uncertainty, academics and administrative staff carried the day. Rhodes University was one of those institutions identified by the Minister of Higher Education, Science and Technology as falling into the low risk universities that would be able to successfully complete the academic year by January 2021 (when Faculty Boards approved results of examinations that had been completed by December 2020). The reason for this was not the elitism of Rhodes as a former advantaged institution, as perceived by some. It was through sheer hard work, and dedication and commitment of staff who put in the hours and walked the path of social justice to ensure the safety of lives and that no student will be left behind. Rhodes University initially moved into the 4IR with anxiety and uncertainty, but has since proven that with decisive leadership and commitment from all its staff, it is resilient in the face of the pandemic.

This has not been an easy task. We have sadly lost staff and students to the pandemic. We are still concerned for the wellbeing and safety of all. It is in the commitment of those who do not stand on the sides and continuously expect the University leadership to dig deep and address the challenges while they bemoan the state of the Institution, that we find solidarity and the strength to continue. We appreciate the pro-active initiatives of the Community Engagement Division, the tireless support from I & TS, CHERTL and Student Affairs, the deans and faculty leadership and many more who have been visible in the dark and troubled times. We appreciate the commitment and sacrifices of our student leadership in these times, carrying the demands of students and engaging with the University leadership. We have completed the 2020 academic year successfully despite the challenges; and we continue to live up to our motto: Where leaders learn.

Professor Adèle L Moodly
Registrar

from the dean



December 2020 marked the completion of my second year as Dean of the Faculty of Pharmacy. I have taken this opportunity to reflect on what the Faculty has accomplished over the past year and to contemplate the road ahead. I am delighted to provide you with this report which highlights a small sample of the wide-ranging and notable activities of the Faculty of Pharmacy in 2020. This was a year that took countless lives and when the hard lockdown was announced we initially thought that all our hopes and dreams had been torn to pieces. It was during this year that the importance of public health and the role of healthcare professionals was highlighted. Each and every person in the Faculty had a special role to play in ensuring that we stood firm and endorsed our Faculty identity in this unprecedented moment. We had no choice but to stand up and ensure that we were not severely disrupted. As we reflect I want to stress that to be associated with the Faculty of Pharmacy means that you are part of a Faculty with tremendous positive momentum and relevance.

The student headcount in the Faculty reached 740 students, of which 685 were undergraduate students and 55 were postgraduates. For several years now, the majority of students in the Faculty have been female and our success rate has remained strong at undergraduate level. Sadly, we could not have a normal graduation or oath-taking ceremony to celebrate the 119 students who received their BPharm degrees, the 10 MSc (Pharm) / MPharm graduates and the 1 PharmD and 4 PhD graduates.

This report is a little bit different from past reports as it focuses primarily on the events during the

global pandemic. I cannot think of any other year when I have been more eager to turn the page on the calendar to welcome another year. Our response as a Faculty to the challenges of 2020 has been amazing. As I write, the COVID-19 case count is still surging. Fortunately, none of our students found themselves in serious or life-threatening conditions.

A Faculty plan for the period of March 2020 to December 2020 was developed in consultation with all Divisions in the Faculty. This has been a steep learning curve for the Faculty and it took heroic actions and smart decisions to provide safe learning opportunities for students. Many students did not have the appropriate connectivity, devices and digital skills required to abruptly transition to teaching and learning activities entirely dependent on technology. When PPE was in short supply we cast our net across the country and procured hundreds of necessary items to ensure the health and safety of our students. The Professional Provident Society (PPS) donated some of the PPE to our final year students. When sanitiser was in short supply Prof Walker converted one of the laboratories into a manufacturing plant to help fight the spread of the coronavirus. We were able to source alcohol for the sanitiser from our partners including the South African Institute for Aquatic Biodiversity (SAIAB) in this endeavour. We learnt how to mitigate the spread of infection and, in consultation with the Rhodes University coronavirus response task team, we provided risk analyses and readiness plans for the return of our students to campus so that they could effectively continue with online learning and resume the practical component that is so vital to the BPharm

programme and the development of competent pharmacists.

This progressive approach to take up the challenge of finding innovative solutions for these unprecedented circumstances characterized the response of our Faculty. The pandemic has sharpened our awareness of the massive inequalities that exist in the communities our students live in and in the country at large. It has also impressed on us that as a Faculty we have a responsibility to tackle these inequalities particularly in the higher education and healthcare spaces.

I have been humbled and honoured to work with all the pharmacy students and passionate colleagues in this tumultuous year. This is your Faculty: I strongly urge you to get involved and bring your ideas and experiences to the forefront.

The profile of our admission candidates, students and staff represent a diverse group reflecting our South African population. We believe great innovation and creativity is possible through the unique and diverse perspectives that can be offered from our Faculty community.

We accomplished so much during a year of global pandemic.

I hope you are as proud as I am of what we continue to accomplish in spite of the very real challenges that intrude on our primary mission of offering high quality teaching, learning and scholarship. All measures of student success were on the upswing in 2020 and our research and scholarly enterprises grew to unprecedented levels. We are fortunate to teach, mentor and advise our extraordinary students who come from all over South Africa, Africa and beyond. I could not imagine working with a better group of academic and support staff.

Some of the notable events regarding our staffing in 2020 are as follows:

- Dr SD Khanye was promoted to Associate Professor, a rare occurrence for someone to move from lecturer to Associate Professor.
- Prof Mamza Mothibe joined the Division of

Pharmacology in January.

- Mr Michael Naidoo left Rhodes University in January 2020.
- Ms Lucie Allan joined the Faculty in April 2020 to teach Pharmacotherapy following the departure of Prof Bodenstein.
- The efforts of the academic and support staff allowed for the completion of all planned BPharm 4 teaching and learning activities and the completion of nearly all planned teaching and learning activities, including practicals and assessments, for other years with no revisions or reductions of the curriculum.
- We should applaud our collective tenacity, creativity and resourcefulness that has allowed us to complete the year. I have watched you respond to this crisis with incredible strength and compassion,

Looking ahead, I remain focused on two important goals, which are to:

- ensure that academic pharmacy continues to thrive at Rhodes University, and
- develop a strong shared culture.
- I look forward to all that we are going to accomplish together in the new academic year. My office will be reaching out to all students during the first part of the year to set up meetings with all BPharm classes and postgraduate students so that we are able to address all their concerns.

Many thanks to all Faculty members, Faculty alumni and those who have worked alongside me as we continue to serve our students. I look forward to working with you all over the coming years as we continue to move forward to even greater heights. At this time in our history we stand with our students, supporting them in their academic and professional journey. I am inspired by the resilience and tenacity that has been shown by all our students and staff during the year.

I hope you will enjoy reading this Review and that you will join me in the conversations that it is intended to stimulate.

Professor Sandile Khamanga
Dean: Faculty of Pharmacy

Staff of the Faculty

(as at March 2021)

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 Pharmecon (UPF)

Lecturer

Pharmaceutical Chemistry

Associate Professor and Head of Division

SD Khanye 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, MPharm (Rhodes)

F Chiwanza BPharm, 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

L Allan BPharm, MPharm (Rhodes)
LSibiya BMed Sci (Hons) (UKZN), PhD (UKZN)
P Makoni PhD, BPharm, MSc (Pharm) (Rhodes)

Lecturer

H Walsh PhD (Rhodes)

Lecturer, Anatomy & Physiology

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)
H Parolis PhD (Rhodes), MRPharmS, MPS(SA), FRSSAF

Emeritus Associate Professors

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

Clinical 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)

reports from divisions



Division of Pharmaceutical Chemistry

By David Khanye

Head of Division: Professor David Khanye

Despite the smooth start of the academic year, 2020 has been a tough year with the emergency and rapid spread of the COVID-19 pandemic globally. Notwithstanding these things, the Division of Pharmaceutical Chemistry had notable achievements throughout the year.

Professor Tandlich has been involved in disaster management activities and the targeted resource development for COVID-19 through the International Emergency Management Society (TIEMS). Furthermore, Professor Tandlich participated as a Guest Editor for the April 2020 Special issue of the TIEMS newsletter. In addition, he presented along with his students at two international conferences on emergency management. Finally, Dr. Tandlich is on the compliance board of the TIEMS International certification for emergency managers.

Professor Khanye received the NRF C2 rating in Physical and Chemical Sciences, which illustrates an upward trajectory in research productivity within the Division of Pharmaceutical Chemistry. Professor Khanye, together with his former Ph.D student, Dr. Mziyanda Mbaba – a postdoctoral fellow at UCT, and former co-supervisor, Professor Gregory Smith (UCT), were invited through Professor Christophe Biot (Universite de Lille, France) to write a book chapter (Organometallic Chemistry of Drugs Based on Iron). The chapter has been accepted for publication in the book series – Comprehensive Organometallic Chemistry IV – this year.

In May 2020, the laboratory of Professor Khanye was granted access to the CSIR synthetic compound library of 20,000 molecules for biological screening against the protozoan parasite *Trichomonas vaginalis*, a causative agent of non-viral sexually transmitted diseases, trichomoniasis. The screening campaign to identify potential hit compounds is being

conducted in collaboration with Professor Kirkwood Land at the University of the Pacific, California, USA. Professor Philip Rosenthal (Department of Medicine at the University of California, San Francisco, USA) accepted an invitation by Professor Khanye to present a seminar to the Faculty on antimalarial drug efficacy and resistance in Africa. Unfortunately, due to the rapid rise of the COVID-19 pandemic and many countries closing their borders, Professor Rosenthal cancelled his travel to South Africa. Finally, Professor Khanye has been appointed to the Editorial Board of Medicinal and Pharmaceutical Chemistry (specialty section of Frontiers in Chemistry) as Review Editor.

In 2020, the Division of Pharmaceutical Chemistry contributed 14 peer-reviewed research papers appearing in premium international scientific journals. As Head of the Section, I thank colleagues and postgraduate students for their commitment and excellent contribution in elevating the division to consistently produce desired scholarly research outputs.

Dr Goosen and her MSc student Mr Tanyi Kima, from Cameroon, were invited to write a book chapter for a CRC Press book on Natural Products Chemistry of Botanical Medicines from Cameroonian plants. The book forms part of a series on Natural Products Chemistry of Global Plants. The book will be released for publication in September 2021. Furthermore, Dr Goosen received an invitation to present lectures as Adjunct Professor in Medicinal Chemistry and Pharmaceutical English at Jinan University, Guangzhou, PRC during April and October 2020. Unfortunately, those visits had to be cancelled due to the pandemic.

Mr Theodore Orlando Duxbury, a PhD Pharmacy student supervised by Professor Roman Tandlich, Dr Sharli Paphitis, and Dr

Joana Bezerra, received the Student Researcher of the Year award at the 2020 Community Engagement Awards. Ms Katlego Mphahlele, a Masters student in the Division of Pharmaceutical Chemistry (supervised by Dr Nosiphiwe Ngqwala) and a former RU SRC President 2020, received a Special Award in recognition of her outstanding leadership. I congratulate these students for their excellent and meaningful contribution within the division, faculty and university at large.

Finally, we extend our deepest appreciation to our undergraduate students who also performed extremely well in spite of the COVID-19 lockdown period. A cohort of students returned to campus in July and another later on in the

semester. Asynchronous teaching and course packs were provided and our students made admirable progress in spite of the difficulties they encountered. The lecturing staff, with the support of our highly dedicated technical staff, Mr Xolani Rasana and Mr Likhaya Hempe, presented all the practicals during the course of the second semester. Students wrote both their usual June and November examination papers during the usual November timeframe. The Pharmaceutical Chemistry 2 and 3 students should be lauded for their determination and inner strength to complete their courses under such difficult and unusual circumstances.



Industrial Pharmacy Elective students and Professor Rod Walker with 300 litres of World Health Organization hand sanitiser produced by them. Following this, the students donated the sanitiser to no-fee paying schools and other groups in and around Makhanda/Grahamstown. At the time this photograph was taken, the total amount of sanitiser produced in the Faculty since March 2020 stands at 14 265 litres.

Division of Pharmaceutics

By Ms N Paterson, Professor RB Walker and Professor SMM Khamanga

Head of Division: Ms Natalie Paterson

“In these uncertain times...”

The academic year of 2020 was without a doubt one of the most challenging periods that the University, Faculty and Division of Pharmaceutics has ever had to contend with. As a subject that requires mastery of practical skills, exposure to relevant instruments and competent handling of pharmaceutical products, the impact of COVID-19 and subsequent national restrictions placed the Pharmaceutics program in potential jeopardy. The National State of Disaster and lockdown had a massive impact on staff members, undergraduate and postgraduate students.

However, at the same time the pandemic crisis and the desperate need for the large-scale production of safe and effective medicines and vaccines reaffirmed the importance of the Pharmaceutical Sciences and the role of the pharmacist. As healthcare professionals conversant with the intricacies and importance of the safety, efficacy and stability of pharmaceutical products, all members of the division faced teaching and learning challenges with a dogged determination not to compromise on the quality of the Pharmaceutics program.

Looking back on this unprecedented year I believe the Division of Pharmaceutics and the Pharmaceutics students can be proud of our resilience, dedication and contribution.

Undergraduate teaching and learning

The transition to emergency remote teaching under conditions where students had limited access to devices, internet connection and appropriate study spaces, placed an enormous strain on teaching and learning activities for a significant portion of the year. The nature of topics such as pharmacokinetics, pharmaceutical calculations, and stability kinetics proved to be particularly challenging. In the face of these challenges the Division made use of alternative methods of delivering teaching material and undertaking assessment of learning. These included couriering

hard copy notes to students, production of recordings and video lectures, “take-home” assessments and synchronous online teaching.

However, despite our best efforts it was evident that there is still no substitute for the experience of face to face teaching and practical components of the course. As a Faculty we presented a comprehensive plan to enable the return of our students for the purposes of performing essential practical activities. An enormous amount of work was put into restructuring the Pharmaceutics practical programs to maximize the practical experience in a safe manner with limited the risk to staff and students.

Students returned to campus to perform their practicals in “blocks”. As not all students were able to return to campus in the first “block” we repeated the practical program on three occasions, the last of which was with the final few students completing their required practicals in March 2021. Our postgraduate students performed a pivotal role as demonstrators during these practical teaching blocks. They did not stand idly by but, understanding the gravity of the situation, made use of the practical periods to supplement the online teaching by explaining concepts and answering questions.

As a healthcare faculty, the staff and students were well equipped to deal with the health and safety concerns related to students returning to campus to take part in face-to-face teaching and learning activities. The academic and technical staff in the Faculty worked with great commitment to design and implement COVID-19 safety protocols. The students took these precautions seriously and as a result no COVID-19 outbreak was reported among any of the Pharmacy students that returned to campus. The success of bringing Pharmacy students safely back to campus for face-to-face activities in 2020 provides strong motivation for further valuable face-to-face teaching and learning activities to be introduced in 2021.

One of the precautions was limiting the number of students in each practical session necessitating each practical to be repeated on no fewer than four occasions. As students had returned specifically to complete the practical components of the course, practical activities were conducted mornings and afternoons. The intensity of these blocks was taxing on students and staff but ultimately over the course of the academic year each 2nd year, 3rd year and 4th year student performed 21 hours, 19 hours and 10 hours of practicals/practical exams, respectively. This is a testament to the conviction of each person contributing to the Pharmaceutics program in the work that we do.

Postgraduate students and research

Despite disruptions, uncertainty and limited access to campus and normal working conditions the Biopharmaceutics Research Group (BRG), headed by Professor Walker, still produced an impressive research output. The group was very successful in respect of contributing to the peer-reviewed literature with 19 papers accepted in 2020 (the latest on 25 December 2020) and some of these will appear in the 2021 literature.

Four students were awarded their PhD Degrees, including Mr Makoni, who was a full-time lecturer in the Pharmaceutics Division. During this time one student was awarded their Master of Science degree.

A new Differential Scanning Calorimeter and United States Pharmacopoeia (BioDis) were installed in addition to a Fourier Transform



Professor Walker with the recently installed Differential Scanning Calorimeter which is used extensively by postgraduates in the Faculty of Pharmacy.

Infrared Spectrophotometer, all of which are now fully operational. The installation of an Osmometer has added a new string to our bow in respect of characterization of ophthalmic and parenteral formulations. An ultrasonic probe used for the production of lipid nanoparticles by Mr Makoni was installed and has paid for itself with his successful completion of his PhD. Further good news is that Professor Khamanga was successful in obtaining funding for a highly specialised piece of research equipment, an electronic tongue, which will be the first of its kind in Africa.

Hand sanitiser project

As the coronavirus pandemic descended on the world and South Africa in 2020 we as a global population were ourselves dangerously unprepared. The highly contagious nature of the virus was one of the greatest concerns and soon it became clear that in combination with physical/social distancing, respiratory hygiene and mask-wearing, handwashing and hand sanitisation were important strategies in combating the spread of the virus. The demand for hand sanitiser skyrocketed globally and supply was limited. In Makhanda clinics, hospitals and private facilities were desperately seeking the product as an essential component of infection control.

Recognising this need, Professor Walker converted the Sterile Products Laboratory (usually used for undergraduate teaching) into a hand sanitiser manufacturing facility using a WHO-approved formula¹. With the assistance of postgraduate students, Professor Walker produced in excess of 12 200 litres of hand sanitiser over the course of the year, starting during the highest level of lockdown.

From this project the Faculty was able to produce hand sanitiser for the Eastern Cape Department of Health, Rhodes University community and local old age homes. If one considers that each spray is 1 mL in volume, this sanitiser has been used to sanitise hands more than twelve million times! A truly meaningful and valuable contribution to the University's seventh IDP² Strategic Goal of promoting "Rhodes University as an institution for public good in local, provincial, national and international contexts".

1 Here's the hand sanitiser formulation: Ethanol 96% - 8 333ml; Hydrogen peroxide 3% - 417ml; Glycerol 98% - 145ml; water to make - 10 litres. (The water was purified by reverse osmosis through a 0.22 micron filter.)

2 Institutional Development Plan

Industrial Pharmacy: a new 4th-year elective course

At the start of 2020 the Pharmaceutics Division was very excited to offer an opportunity to interested 4th year students to participate in the first Industrial Pharmacy elective offered by the Faculty of Pharmacy. The elective was conceptualised by the Pharmaceutics Division and structured around a weeklong Work Integrated Learning (WIL) program at an Aspen Pharmacare manufacturing site. Fruitful meetings with Aspen had already taken place and planning was well underway.

However, as with many innovations intended for implementation in 2020, the pandemic derailed plans and instead the elective course was managed by using predominantly online approaches. But despite the challenges we were able to reconceptualise the course in the context of the pandemic and pivot it towards the service

learning space. Students joined Professor Walker's sanitiser project for a day and were exposed to medium scale manufacturing, batch records and documentation, packaging and labelling. The students then delivered the hand sanitiser they had produced to local retirement facilities.

Students reported in their anonymous feedback for the course that they "really enjoyed making sanitiser for the community" that they found the course "relevant and very interesting" and that it was "a well-executed, insightful elective course".

We are very proud of how we were able to think creatively and successfully navigate the obstacles in our way. This course will be offered again in 2021 with the hope that some WIL at Aspen can be included.



Pharmaceutics 3 students watch a recorded pre-practical video to facilitate physical distancing during practical sessions.



Professor Khamanga addresses the first group of 4th year Pharmacy students as they receive PPE and watch a safety video, in preparation for their first in-person practical session since lockdown was announced.



A 4th year student completes a Batch Manufacturing Record for a batch of hand sanitiser prepared as part of the Industrial Pharmacy elective.



The Pharmaceuticals staff and Industrial Pharmacy Elective students donate 300L of hand sanitiser made by the students in Professor Walker's sanitiser production facility. Recipients include Fort England Hospital and Settlers Hospital staff, among which are two Pharmacy Faculty alumni, Ying-Ju (Shali) Chen and Sevoulla Floudiotis.



Fourth year students doing the Industrial Pharmacy elective deliver a donation of hand sanitiser to McKaiser Old Age Home as part of the elective.



Prof Walker keeps track of output.



Pharmaceutics 2 students perform their practical exam. Four different exam papers were set and 6 x 3-hour sessions were used to ensure all students were assessed fairly and that safety protocols were complied with. (Note the effect of the 180° lens!)

Division of Pharmacy Practice

By Professor Sue Burton

Head of Division: Professor Sue Burton

2020 started like most other years. Little did we know...

The academic year started on Monday 10 February 2020, and for the first few weeks, lectures and practicals took place as scheduled. We heard about the rising number of people with COVID-19 in China, then in Europe, but it all seemed far away. And then in March – it hit us! The University was advised to send all students home, and thus all face-to-face teaching and contact with students ended very abruptly.

The students' early vacation turned into a busy time for lecturers as we all learned how to convert our teaching and learning material for delivery online. This switch to online delivery was officially known as Emergency Remote Teaching and learning (ERT). The University's support division – EdTech – were fantastic and provided online sessions to upskill us quickly, and they offered great backup for when things went wrong.

At the same time, plans had to be made quickly. The University had to ascertain which students had devices such as computers, laptops, smartphones, and access to the internet. At the same time, the University rapidly negotiated contracts with courier companies to deliver laptops to students and free data was made available for staff and students. Students who did not have access to the internet or adequate technology were couriered printed material. The logistics of preparing and sending printed material was a mammoth task. Still, it was successfully achieved in the Faculty through the tireless efforts of Ms Linda Emslie and Ms Tanya Kent – to whom we are incredibly grateful.

Not only did we have to change our delivery format, but the BPharm curriculum had to be re-planned, and new teaching strategies had to be implemented. Practical had to be evaluated and adjusted (sometimes they had to be converted to online activities), and new assessment plans had to be designed. The process required that

we recognize and acknowledge the limitations of ERT and find innovative ways of working within those limitations.

On 26 March, we donated (and delivered) all the PPE available in the Faculty to Settlers Hospital in anticipation of the drastic increase in COVID-19 cases. On 27 March, the National Lockdown level 5 started. Of course, this meant everyone had to stay at home. Suddenly our whole world was limited to our homes. In the beginning, it was interesting, and everyone spoke about the novelty of “working from home”. Soon, however, it lost its originality, and for many of us, it turned into “living at work” – especially people with small children, who were also at home because the schools had closed. Many of us also soon realized that our home Wi-Fi and data access were inadequate when working from home, especially when several family members were competing for it!

We quickly learnt how to do everything online, including lectures, tutorials, and practicals. We also became very skilled in information technology as we had to create voice-over PowerPoint® presentations and short videos, compress videos, convert videos as well as edit videos and audio recordings. Working with two computer screens became necessary which meant, for some of us, borrowing hard ware from our offices to use at home. All summative assessments were stalled until after July until all students had online access and students and staff came to terms with “online teaching and learning”.

During this time, Zoom® also became the new norm. Every meeting suddenly had to take place on Zoom®, Google Meet® or Microsoft Teams® platforms. Early Zoom® sessions were interesting, to say the least, as we learnt to get sound right, hide inappropriate bedroom backgrounds, mute ourselves and then remember to unmute when it was our turn to speak, raise and lower our hands and share our screens with one another. A whole year later the novelty has worn off, and most of us

are competent “zombies”.

On 23 May 2020 the Minister of Higher Education, Science and Innovation declared criteria for students’ gradual return to campus. The DHET announced that students in Healthcare professions were permitted to return to campus, and our final year students were given the option to return to campus in June or towards the end of the year. However, the South African borders remained closed; thus our international students who had gone home just before lockdown could not return until October.

On 21 and 22 June, our final-year Pharmacy students arrived in Makhanda. On arrival they had to quarantine for 14 days whilst continuing with their online learning. After that, an intense two-week period of practicals started for them, followed by practical assessments and their Objective Structured Clinical Exam (also known as an OSCE).

Our 2nd and 3rd years arrived on 4 and 5 July, but they also had to quarantine for 14 days, before their practical block could begin. Our first years and those unable to return in June/July returned in October to complete their practicals.

In the context of our work-based learning programme across all years of the BPharm programme being severely impacted by the national lockdown, the Pharmacy Practice Division turned to simulated learning. With the kind permission and support of Monash University, we implemented a simulated pharmacy programme called MyDispense. MyDispense is a web-based

application developed by Monash University that uses features of commercial dispensing programs to provide students with an authentic experience of the entire dispensing process, from the receiving of the prescription to the handing over of the medicine to the patient. The programme enables students to explore patient-based scenarios similar to those they are likely to encounter in real-life contexts. The Pharmacy Practice Division team trained ourselves and the students in the use of MyDispense, and with the assistance of Ms Monique Klitsie – based in Ireland, developed scenarios to replace practicals.

Students were screened before every practical, and strict protocols were followed before, during and after each practical. This was an onerous process but essential to minimise the risks of COVID-19.

Emergency remote teaching and learning – commonly known as online learning – continued until 4 November, followed by exams that ended on 2 December 2020.

What a year 2020 was. We don’t think any of us will ever forget it. However, despite all the complications and problems, the Pharmacy Practice Division worked well as a team to ensure our programme’s consistent and smooth delivery. We all learned many lessons, and some of these we will be presenting together as a team at the 2021 Life Long Learning in Pharmacy Conference in a presentation entitled: “Teaching through a Pandemic: Life lessons learnt”.

Division of Pharmacology

By Professor Mamza Mothibe

Head of Division: Professor Mamza Mothibe

The Division of Pharmacology saw growth and prospects of development in teaching and learning as well as research in 2020, through the appointment of the new Head of Division.

While the 2020 COVID-19 conditions and restrictions put research activities on hold, this gave an opportunity for the Pharmacology Division to do planning and to chart strategy for improving research outputs.

The division will be expanding on research within the area of Indigenous Knowledge Systems (IKS) and Drug Discovery, involving the pharmacology and toxicology of medicinal plants/herbal medicines, particularly African Traditional Medicine.

The research focus on Alzheimer's disease and diabetes mellitus will be further strengthened by widening the search for medicinal plants and compounds that have anti-Alzheimer and anti-diabetic activity; as well as including the pharmacology of new synthetic compounds with anti-Alzheimer activity and anti-diabetic activity.

The sudden and accelerated shift to the emergency remote teaching and learning brought out the best (and most) of the lecturers, who had to adapt to the additional need of providing recorded lectures and/or videos. We all realised the importance of the presence of students as a continuous platform for feedback that shapes our lectures in terms of both quality and quantity. It was quite an experience for all, having to record lectures with the computer screen as the only point of contact and feedback (if any).



The Biopharmaceutics Research Institute

By Emeritus Professor Izzy Kanfer

The Biopharmaceutics Research Institute (BRI) was established in 1987 with its main research objective to conduct bioavailability/bioequivalence and pharmacokinetic studies on drug products in accordance with international requirements and specifications. 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). It is internationally acknowledged as a premier testing site using the Vasoconstrictor Assay (VCA) in accordance with the internationally accepted FDA's guidance for topical corticosteroid products.

More recently (2018) the BRI was inspected by the FDA and received notification that the audit was successful, a great tribute and acknowledgement despite its relatively small size and modest funding. A noteworthy fact is that following the passing of its former Director, Dr. Mike Skinner in 2016, the University has not appointed a successor, and apart from Emeritus Professor Isadore Kanfer, who has been acting as Executive Director, Sr Emily Repinz is currently the only member of staff of the BRI. She has been solely responsible for the daily running of the Institute. Her duties include the provision of contractual services to both local and international pharmaceutical companies, providing clinical services and conducting clinical studies involving the testing of pharmaceutical products, training of technicians, and managing all the daily administrative functions. This is a truly remarkable feat. It is especially noteworthy in that the BRI has successfully completed 13 contractual studies involving 584 subjects since 2016, including, as previously mentioned, the successful inspection and audit by the US FDA. The FDA regulatory requirements are considered amongst the most rigorous in the world, and there are national and international contract research organisations involved in such testing, many of

which are multi-million-dollar companies that have failed such regulatory audits.



Sr Emily Repinz, BRI's clinical research coordinator, and one of the Faculty's vaccinators.

The BRI has made and continues to make significant research contributions through publication of peer-reviewed articles in international journals, and serves as a unique training ground for postgraduate students where 15 students have graduated with the MSc degree, 11 with PhDs and currently there are 2 registered postgraduate students undertaking projects for their degrees.

It has been pointed out to us that the Review of 2009-2019 did not carry a report on the Biopharmaceutics Research Institute (BRI). This was indeed a major omission, for which the Editor acknowledges full responsibility. I offer an apology to the Institute, and to readers of the Review.

I am grateful to Emeritus Professor Izzy Kanfer for having brought this shortcoming to my attention, and for having, at short notice, provided the following report. Readers should please see the report as rightfully belonging in our previous Review.

Editor.



faculty news

RU volunteers help Department of Health screen for COVID-19

On Tuesday 7 April 2020 five colleagues from the Faculty of Pharmacy and 4 residents of Makhanda helped as volunteers to screen people living in the Somerset Heights area. This involved going from house to house, introducing themselves as volunteers helping the Department of Health, and leaving a screening questionnaire for each resident to complete. Volunteers collected the completed questionnaires. Residents who qualified for COVID-19 testing were then urged to get tested at the mobile testing facility parked in Glastonbury Road in the afternoon. Volunteers collected nearly 300 questionnaires.

On Wednesday 8 April four of the group volunteered in Fitzroy Street. The previous evening social media had been used to inform Makhanda residents that the mobile testing facility would be in Fitzroy Street. The message had included the criteria for testing. People were asked to wait in their cars so as to reduce the risk of transmission. Screening forms were completed in the cars, ensuring that only those who should be tested were. Then those who required testing went

to the mobile testing facility so that a swab could be taken. The two volunteer pharmacists helped complete the medical forms that accompany each swab that is sent to the laboratory for testing.



Creating postgraduate collaborations

By Carmen Oltmann

Prof Sioux McKenna and Prof Chrissie Boughey were awarded an EU Grant via the Erasmus+ Programme for a project called: “Creating Postgraduate Collaborations” (CPC). It follows on from two successful project collaborations, namely: (1) Strengthening Postgraduate Supervision (SPS) and (2) Enhancing Postgraduate Environments (EPE). I was invited to join a collaborative project with other Rhodes colleagues.

The aim of the CPC project is to enhance the capacity of partner institutions to produce research by:

- stimulating the development of environments that provide exposure to research and are rich in support for research. This would include enhancing the capacity to manage research; and
- increasing the capacity of academic staff members to supervise at postgraduate levels through the provision of courses that are tailored to specific contexts.

Rhodes University is one of nine partners in this collaboration. The partners are:

1. Rhodes University
2. University of Venda
3. South Eastern Kenya University (SEKU)
4. Moi University (Kenya)
5. Maseno University (Kenya)
6. Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam
7. Erasmus Universiteit Rotterdam
8. University of Antwerp
9. Boğaziçi University (Turkey)

In February 2020 a group of us travelled to Istanbul for meetings and workshops at Boğaziçi University. All nine universities were represented.

Istanbul is an amazing city – so diverse and interesting. Every day we took trains and trams to Boğaziçi University, where the meetings and workshops took place.

We arrived back in Makhanda on Sunday 23 February, excited and exhausted. It had been a wonderful week in Istanbul.



Visiting the Topkapi Palace museum in Istanbul. ‘Topkapi’ means ‘Cannon Gate’. Part of the building was originally the Sultan’s harem. You can see reference to it in the lower left of the photograph.

The Creating Postgraduate Collaborations project hopes to achieve its aim in the following ways:

1. Fostering scholarly conversations:
Institutions will host seminars and guest lecturers that will be streamed to all institutions in the partnership. Academics and postgraduates will be invited to participate.
2. Summer/winter schools:
One summer/winter school will be hosted per year by one of the partner institutions. These will likely take place in July when it is our winter but summer in the northern hemisphere. Participants from the different institutions will be encouraged to attend.

3. Ongoing research and evaluation:
Acknowledging the different contexts of the institutions, Faculties and departments involved in this collaboration the aim is to learn with and from each other, and to research and evaluate the processes and outcomes.
4. Contributing to the development of capacity to manage research (research support):
We can learn from everyone involved in this partnership.
5. Contributing to the quality of postgraduate supervision through the provision of a course on supervision that is sensitive to individual contexts:
The “Strengthening Postgraduate Supervision” (SPS) course has been offered more than 50 times at South African universities and now needs to be adapted for other contexts (e.g. universities in Kenya). At Rhodes supervisors are encouraged to participate in this course.



Meetings were held on the campus of Boğaziçi University, on the European side of the Bosphorus Strait. (Carmen is fourth from the right.)

Other staff activities.

In October 2020, Ms Farisai Chiwanza and Ms Clarris Magadza attended the 'Writing in the University' course. This is a short course run by the Centre for Higher Education, Research Teaching and Learning. It encourages academics to examine their approaches to teaching and assessment and how these align with the required academic literacies in their field. Each field of study has its own specific requirements and expectations of students when it comes to reading and writing, also known as academic literacies. Students therefore need to learn and master the required literacies in their fields of study if they are to navigate their studies successfully.

Through the 'Writing in the University' course, Ms Chiwanza and Ms Magadza were enlightened on the assumptions that lecturers make about students' literacies as well as teaching and assessment strategies to ensure that students become adequately literate in their field of study. This way, lecturers can equip students to read and understand textbooks and other written work; as

well as write in the format required of them and, thereby, successfully complete assessment tasks such as assignments and examinations.



Farisai Chiwanza and Clarris Magadza

Senior degrees awarded during 2020

At present we have very few addresses of the (eight) students who were awarded higher degrees in 2020. We sent out three emails and received the following.

Seeprarani Rath

I am currently working as a Postdoctoral Fellow at the Biopharmaceutics Research Institute and, as I am still on Rhodes University campus, very little has changed for me. My research focuses on development of surrogate measures for bioequivalence assessment of topical dermatological products. Additionally, I am assisting with the clinical studies undertaken by BRI, mentoring the postgraduate students from the institute and drafting manuscripts for publication. I submitted my doctoral thesis in June

2019 and was looking forward to the graduation ceremony which was supposed to be held in April 2020. I was a little disappointed that I had to graduate with my highest degree in a virtual ceremony away from family and friends. That being said, Rhodes made sure we got the online degree certificate and eventually the parchment without any hassle. I am grateful to my supervisor, Professor Isadore Kanfer, for his constant support and guidance.

Our congratulations to the following eight students who were awarded higher degrees in 2020:

MPharm:

Oscar Mbi Agbor Ambang
Charlotte Mapfumo
Vimbisai Millicent Makoko
Bavika Naidu.

PhD:

Mellisa Chikukwa
Seeprarani Rath (*see his communication above*)
Bwalya Witika

PharmD

Ya-Ying Wang.

Student bursary recipients

Kieron George Chambers Bursary



Ms Praise Nhau was the 2020 recipient of the Kieron George Chambers Bursary. The bursary is awarded each year to a 3rd-year Zimbabwean student, on the basis of academic merit and all-round participation. Kieron Chambers was a Zimbabwean student in the Faculty from 1989 to 1992. After his death in a car accident, his parents endowed the bursary to perpetuate his memory within the University.

Avlynnne Bowen Prize



Ms Sasha Vambe was awarded the Avlynnne Bowen Prize for 2020. This prize is awarded annually to the student obtaining the highest mark in the Anatomy and Physiology course. It was endowed in 1972 by Mr and Mrs G.A.A. Bowen and Sirion Robertson, in memory of Avlynnne Bowen.

South African Academy of Pharmaceutical Sciences medals

The student achieving the highest weighted average mark in each of the four undergraduate years receives a medal from the South African Academy of Pharmaceutical Sciences. In addition, each of the recipients has his or her name entered on the Honours board in the foyer of the Faculty.

The recipients of this medal for 2020 are:

Ms Malehu Rathobotha (1st year),
Mr Andele Sibanda (2nd year),
Ms Navashni Raju (3rd year),
Ms Chante Odendaal (4th year)

features



To vax, or not to vax: that is the question

Guest essay by Dr Nathan (Natie) Finkelstein
Former Visiting Professor in the Faculty of
Pharmacy

Dr Finkelstein registered as a Chemist and Druggist (now Pharmacist) in 1962. After completing a Diploma in Clinical Chemistry, he obtained an MSc in Pharmaceutical Chemistry (University of Strathclyde, Glasgow), a PhD (Rhodes University) and a Hons-BSc (Med Sci) (University of Stellenbosch). His early research focused on phytochemical studies of indigenous plants.

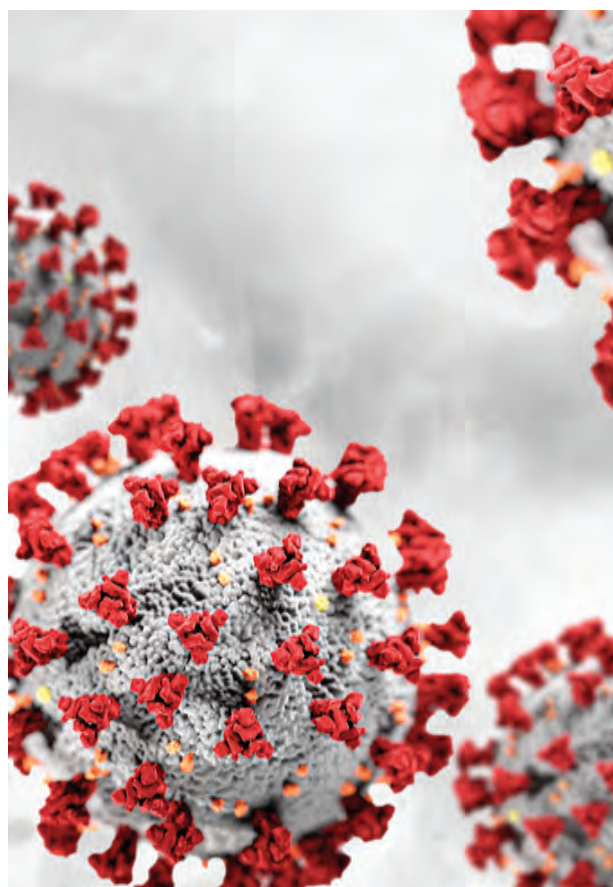
[See also Dr Finkelstein's report in our News of Past Graduates section. Ed.]

The plethora of articles in the scientific and lay media on COVID-19 has the world drowning in information and the average reader is often faced with the dilemma of endeavouring to sift fact from fake. When the pandemic struck so unexpectedly and mercilessly, health services worldwide were totally unprepared and did not know how to handle the coronavirus concerned. The virus per se was unknown and the approach to medical treatment of victims not previously documented.

In spite of an extensive armamentarium of antimicrobial agents, there are sadly very few antiviral agents available. Medical science seems to have made its greatest contribution in the management of HIV-AIDS in developing therapeutic agents to cope with that virus. To a lesser extent, agents like oseltamivir and zanamivir appear useful in treating influenza, but we seem almost powerless in finding a therapeutic agent to combat the coronavirus responsible for COVID-19. Initially, many old agents were



Photograph by Pam Knipe



proposed, e.g. hydroxychloroquine, remdesivir, lopinavir-ritonavir and more lately, ivermectin; however, these did not show much therapeutic promise against the coronavirus, SARS-CoV-2, and such unsubstantiated and unproven treatment generally did more harm than good.

The tried and tested method of coping with many pandemics was to resort to the use of vaccines. The most famous of all immunological preparations (smallpox vaccine) was attributed to an English country physician, Edward Jenner. In 1796 he inoculated the arm of an 8-year old boy with cowpox (vaccinia) and this conferred on the young lad immunity against smallpox. One is left wondering how Jenner would have been adjudged today by a modern medical ethics committee or by a medicines regulatory authority. Since a viral disease like smallpox was declared eradicated worldwide by the WHO in 1980 and polio, the scourge of young children in the 1960s, has almost also been eliminated, vaccines have proven their efficacy as the most effective public health intervention in eliminating and ameliorating many diseases in humans and animals and preventing their transmission.

Many vaccines have been developed in record time, but it is beyond the scope of this article to examine the formulation and efficacy of each vaccine in turn. Many readers will be sceptical about the quality, safety and efficacy of these vaccines, as it may be felt that the standards have not been rigidly applied due to the speed of their development. The technology in developing a vaccine has changed dramatically from the growth of viruses in chick embryos and there are amazing and efficient laboratories that are able to elucidate the chemical composition (genomics) of viruses and their variants with great accuracy. This information has been invaluable in the development of RNA or vector vaccines in the preventative treatment of COVID-19. There also needs to be trust and confidence in a country's medicines regulatory authority. In the RSA, the South African Health Products Regulatory Authority (SAHPRA) will not release a medicine (vaccines are medicines) until it has satisfied itself that the criteria for quality, safety and efficacy have been met by the manufacturer concerned.

One of the problems associated with the development of vaccines is the ability of the virus

to mutate to a variant that no longer has the same immunological characteristics as the originally isolated virus. Some of the variants appear to transmit more easily, while others seem to side-step the immune response. Additionally, the nomenclature associated with variants is creating confusion due to the convoluted string of letters, numbers and dots, e.g. B.1.1.7 variant first seen in Britain or B.1.351 (501Y.V2 is the South African preferential name) detected in South Africa. In the USA the variant B.1.315 was spreading rapidly. It is only two digits removed from the South African variant, but similar enough to even confuse our Health Minister. The WHO suggested the avoidance of geographical locations and people's names, e.g. "South African variant" or "China virus", as these names only stigmatise people or places and promote xenophobia and aggression against people originating from the countries concerned. Politicians and officials will attempt to promote one name over another; however, whatever system is finally accepted, it will have to be accepted by the scientists and the general public.

Another issue that will cause people to be cautious about being immunised with a vaccine is the recent 'bust' in South Africa, which involved the discovery of fake vaccines and other illegally imported medicines, e.g. ivermectin. South Africa is fast gaining a dubious reputation as a destination for international syndicates that cash in on the pandemic. Locally, there have been reports of a medicine administered to people even though it is intended to treat parasites in animals. In spite of SAHPRA's concession for the use of ivermectin as part of a "controlled compassionate" programme, those desperate to treat COVID-19 are prepared to risk their health and simply disregard the legal route.

The spread of myths/misinformation and scaremongering by anti-vaxxers that some vaccines contain cells from aborted fetuses or interfere with your body's DNA add to the reluctance of some people to accept a vaccine. A report in the Lancet by discredited British physician, Dr Andrew J Wakefield, that MMR vaccine can cause autism in children, has undoubtedly added to general vaccine hesitancy. Non-acceptance of a vaccine is definitely not in the public interest, because if enough of

the population were to follow such a route, herd or population immunity becomes a mere illusion. The virus will therefore continue to be transmitted in the vulnerable population and any idea of eliminating it will remain a pipe dream.

Possibly the fear of adverse side effects may be the reason for the reluctance by many to be immunised with vaccines. Like any other medicine, vaccines are not without side effects, but these are generally confined to local pain & discomfort at the injection site, headache, muscular pain and general lethargy, and are largely transient. It would seem that even pregnant women are encouraged to be immunised, but only from the second trimester of pregnancy. Those persons who have a history of severe allergy should only report to a facility where there is resuscitation equipment and the necessary medication to treat such a hypersensitivity reaction. Due to a possible rare anaphylaxis in response to vaccine administration, recipients are advised to delay their departure from the facility for at least 30 minutes. Since COVID-19 vaccines are relatively new and the duration/efficacy of the antibodies unknown, the frequency of administration still requires a final recommendation from the medical scientists.

The administration of vaccines is also subject to the same consideration as the administration of any other therapeutic agent, viz. the benefit to risk ratio. Considering the ubiquitous use of vaccines for many years and their proven ability to prevent transmission or mitigate the effects of acquiring the disease, there should be no doubt in any rational person's mind about their benefit. The risks have been explained previously and it would also be prudent to consider which population groups present the greatest risk and need to be granted priority in receiving the vaccine. Obviously those coming into direct contact with patients who have COVID-19 should be protected with a vaccine in addition to normal PPE (Personal Protective Equipment). The second group that requires consideration will probably be those over the age of 65 with co-morbidities, e.g. hypertension, cardiovascular disease, diabetes, obesity etc. Even those with relatively low risk or no risk should not become complacent once they receive the vaccine. It is still wise to adhere to non-pharmacological

precautions like regular hand-washing, wearing masks, maintaining sensible physical distancing and avoiding "super-spreader" events, as the immune protection will probably only kick in some 14 days after immunisation.

In South Africa, it was decided not to use the AstraZeneca vaccine, as it was shown to be relatively ineffective against the variant in this country. In view of the scarcity of vaccines in Africa, this may not have been a wise decision, as the writer is a firm believer in the Afrikaans adage: 'n Halwe eier is beter as 'n leë dop. Surely gaining 20% immunity is better than no immunity at all!

There is a long road ahead before the world can consider declaring the COVID-19 pandemic over. The vaccine drive in fact needs to be ramped up to avert another catastrophe when a third wave hits the world's vulnerable population. Vaccine distribution has to date been significantly inequitable, with the wealthy countries immunising at far higher rates than the low- or middle-income countries. There will undoubtedly be newer generation vaccines developed offering improvements in terms of cost, convenience, ease of administration, more thermostability and covering several strains (multivalent vaccines).

Countries must be alert to the fact that the huge investment in vaccines may be completely negated by new variants that simply evade immunity. Perhaps there needs to be more ubuntu practised by wealthy governments in not selfishly pursuing their own self-interest, but to acknowledge that other people also have a right to be immunised. In particular, African countries face severe challenges in securing vaccines at affordable prices. Rich countries should assist the developing countries to access fair prices for vaccines or donate any vaccines that are in excess of their own country's needs.

As a parting thought, it must be appreciated that the global economy will continue to suffer and social life will undoubtedly be adversely affected should the pandemic not be brought under control everywhere in the world. Nobody is safe until EVERYBODY is safe.

Pharmacology textbook authored by one of our graduates

Mastering the Mystery of Medicines

Emeritus Professor Julia Botha (nee Butler) was a student in our department (before we became a Faculty) in the 1970s. (See News from our graduates.) Although she left Grahamstown after graduating, she did her PhD at Rhodes, under the supervision of Prof Bev Wilson.

Julia chose to remain in South Africa and has had a distinguished career as academic and researcher, mainly in the Department of Therapeutics and Medicines Management at the Nelson Mandela School of Medicine, University of KwaZulu-Natal. For many years she served as Head of the Department, from which position she has recently retired.

She is the author of several books on natural science, popular articles, and more than 60 peer-reviewed papers.

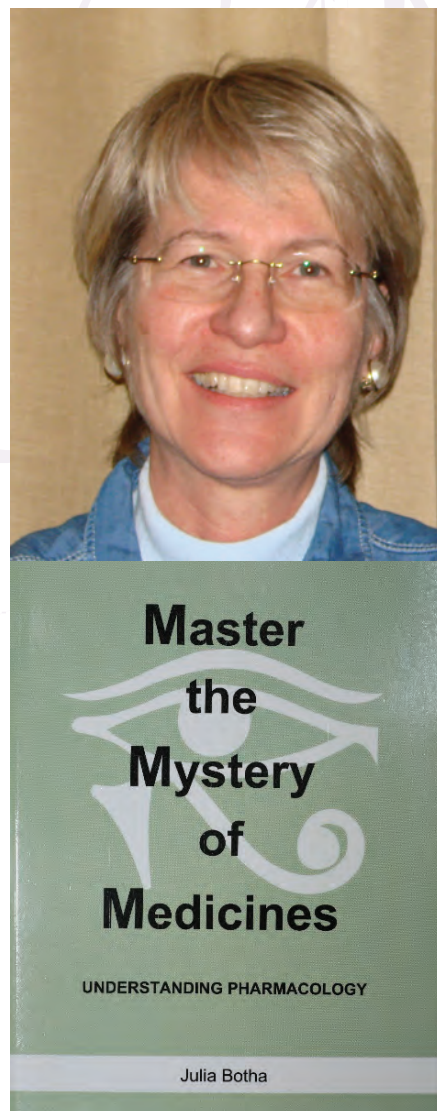
Her declared aim, in this book, is to engage the student's interest and lay a foundation of understanding, rather than the all-too-familiar habit of simply memorising huge amounts of poorly co-ordinated detail. "I have generally found standard books to be too complex, detailed and overwhelming for beginners", she says.

Reading through sections of the book it quickly becomes apparent that Prof Botha's professional expertise is well supported by her talent for conveying and explaining the scientific bases and intricacies of this fascinating and important subject. These two pillars of the academic's stock-in-trade don't always go together in equal proportion.

Insofar as her concern is with comprehension of the basics, the book should be welcomed by students of medicine, pharmacy and nursing, and indeed by anyone who takes an intelligent interest in the principles of healthcare. Not least, it will be welcomed by those who teach in these areas, and by practising pharmacists who occasionally feel the need for a succinct and refreshing update on fundamental aspects of pharmacology.

The book is well presented and profusely illustrated with diagrams, tables and graphs, and light-hearted sketches. There is a glowing foreword by Professor Salim S. Abdool Karim, Director of the Centre for the AIDS Programme of Research in South Africa (CAPRISA), and Pro Vice-Chancellor (Research) at the University of KwaZulu-Natal.

The book is available, at the extraordinarily attractive price of R90.00, from Adams and Van Schaik bookstores and from the website where more information can also be found: www.masterthemysteryofmedicines.com



Down the years...
... news from
our graduates



We have listed our contributors in the order of their final year of study, and alphabetically within each year. They cover 46 years – from 1973 to 2019. That's very nearly two generations. We're delighted to have had such a good response – over that time range.

1973

Ed Goldberg

I moved to Canada in 1980 and worked in retail pharmacy until July 2020. I have lived in North Vancouver since 1983 and am now retired. I have two children and two granddaughters. My free time is taken up with my hobbies of magic, genealogy and numismatics. I look forward to a post-Covid world when I will be able to travel and cruise again.

1974

Julia Botha (Butler)

Julia Botha (Butler 1974) is an Emeritus Professor at the University of KwaZulu-Natal having retired as Head of the Department of Therapeutics and Medicines Management in the Medical School at the end of 2014. Since then she has written a pharmacology book for students of the health care professions, entitled *Master the Mystery of Medicines*, which was published last year.

She and her husband divide their time between Durban and their cottage in the small KZN north coast town of Mtunzini. When not travelling, they are much involved in conservation activities. Their main interest is encouraging people to help preserve what little remains of our natural heritage by planting locally indigenous vegetation. To this end they have written many popular articles and a series of books called *Bring Nature Back to your Garden* and *Bring Butterflies Back to your Garden*. All proceeds from these books go to the Botanical Education Trust, which they founded and which funds research projects that benefit our South African flora.

Rob Oats

I live in the small market town of Okehampton, Devon, UK. Situated right in the centre of Devon and adjacent to Dartmoor National Park. Have been retired for five years. I am engaged in my boyhood passion for model aviation and heavily involved in our local club. The technology we have

been developing in the model aircraft hobby is now a major industry in the UK and the US. They are now developing not only military applications but we have trials going flying urgent medicines and organs between hospitals and they have been delivering Covid vaccine from the mainland to islands off the UK coast. A lot of research is going on as regards delivery of urgent medicines in rural Africa. One company uses our flying site to train pilots for these applications. Attached is a picture. This is one of a model used to tow model gliders.

Lovely people here in rural Devon with its rolling hills and green pastures full of sheep.

Didn't practice in the UK as they refused to recognise degrees obtained in SA when it was a Republic, out of the Commonwealth. As a user of pharmacy services, I find the UK poor in comparison to services offered in Pharmacies during my time in South Africa but they are catching up slowly. Most are corporately owned.

I have been following the COVID-19 pandemic and evolution of vaccine development here with some awe in regards the advancements in gene sequencing and its application in vaccine development. A whole new world of vaccine development has opened up in such a short time.

Looking back I am content with the services I provided to the families I looked after in Pietermaritzburg. The famous one being the cricketer, Kevin Pietersen. I am also grateful for the nine years spent on the National Executive of the PSSA where we laid the foundations of the new structures for the PSSA.

Dave Kettle (class of '74) is also in the UK. He worked for May Baker in PE and then wangled a transfer to the UK and latterly worked for Novartis. He retired a year ago. His wife is also a Rhodes Pharmacy graduate ('75) and she worked in retail.

I have had my first Oxford AstraZeneca vaccine, second next month. My wife works in a care home and she has had both Pfizer Biontec shots in December. I had a mild fever for a day and no other reaction.

Used to see Natie [*Finkelstein: see our Guest essay. Ed.*] quite often in Johannesburg/Pretoria when I was up there for meetings of the PSSA National Executive.



Taken in spring 2019 so still quite chilly hence the winter gear.

[We're happy to accept that it's you with the aircraft, Rob! Ed.]

1975

Taki Kyriacos



The sands of time have finally run out for my 42-year stay in Stutterheim at Colletts Pharmacy. I sold my pharmacy in October 2018 and moved down to Chintsa East from where I am doing locums in East London a few days a week. Keeps the hand in and saves me from the boredom of retirement. I can only look at my stamps for so many hours a day!

I run a pharmacy, The Retail Pharmacy, for an old colleague, **Andrew Wellman**, also a Rhodes graduate, who has emigrated to Australia, situated in St Dominic's Hospital. Andrew has opened a pharmacy in Perth called The Apteek!

Leisure time is mainly golf, with a group called Coelacanth, of which I am now third youngest at 72 years old! Golf is a great game enjoyed by many others since my own prowess has diminished over the years. We have started a small bed and

breakfast business, 158 on Marlin, in our home at Chintsa East. So we would welcome any old friends and colleagues wanting to spend some time on our pristine beaches or fishing.

Our two children, Nick and Pia are proud parents of our three grandchildren, all of whom have turned our lives into one of sublime pride and happiness.

So to my many friends from my lengthy academic years at Rhodes please feel free to contact Suki and/or myself if ever you are in the Eastern Cape. We would love to hear from you all.

Taki Kyriacos (0832726646)

Suki Kyriacos (0839979408)

1976

Ray Simmonds sent me a set of updates, all from members of the class of '76. All of them gravitated to the UK, and they meet once a year in some interesting and scenic part of Britain to explore the area and catch up with each other. I do regret having had to omit from the Review the delightful set of photos and interesting captions Ray provided, covering the last 12 years of their meetings. The reports from the group members have not been shortened. Ed.

Ray writes:

Dear Fellow Rhodians,

I am one of a group of pharmacists who started their studies at Rhodes University in 1973, were all in the final year class of 1976, before eventually ending up in the United Kingdom. We are all agreed that those years at Rhodes were some of the best times of our lives.

We are:

Ailsa McKay

My Pre-Reg training was with a wonderful Pharmacist at Borrowdale Pharmacy in Harare, after which I became a Drug Registration and Production Pharmacist with Sterling Winthrop in Harare for 4 years. I then worked as a locum in Community Pharmacies in Harare followed by two years in a permanent post. In October 1987, just after the big storm, I moved to England where I had a permanent job in a hospital as a Pharmacy Technician. After having an interview with the Pharmaceutical Society, with tips on how to get through it from Claire [MacRobert], I went

to Sunderland to do a few foreign pharmacist exams. This was followed by another year's Pre-Reg training. I continued to work in Hospital Pharmacy, with the last 11 years in Mental Health and Learning Disabilities, until February 2016. I took early retirement, as the hospital was being relocated and I didn't fancy the four hours a day travelling, that would have been required! Am now enjoying the freedom from the restrictions of the regular working routine!

Claire Campbell (MacRobert)

After completing my Pre-Reg at Fife Avenue Pharmacy in Harare, I worked in retail before coming to the UK in 1979. I completed the overseas pharmacists course at Sunderland Polytechnic and did my Pre-Reg at Epsom District Hospital. I then worked at various hospitals in Surrey before having my daughters. Following a break of several years and also working for my husband in his internet company, I returned to pharmacy. We now live in the beautiful Malvern Hills and I have been with Boots for 13 years and will retire at the end of 2021.

Yvonne Taylor (Castle)

After completing my Pre-Reg at Addington Hospital in Durban I returned to the U.K. where I registered as a pharmacist in 1980, having completed the overseas pharmacists course at Sunderland Polytechnic, followed by 6 months Pre-Reg at Bart's and The London Hospital. I met my husband in 1981 on returning to Sussex where I grew up. I spent the intervening years managing various community pharmacies and doing locums while the children were young. (One of my 2 sons is now in the Pacific North West working as a research scientist and my other son is a town planner working locally.) At the end of this year I will be retiring, having enjoyed my time as a community pharmacist at Boots.

Tom Baxter

After completing my Pre-Reg Traineeship in Rhodesia/Zimbabwe, I practised in Hospital, Medical Aid (Railmed), Community Pharmacy, Industrial Pharmacy and as a locum for just over 20 years. I then set out on what was to be a "middle-aged gap year", working as a Pharmacy Technician, through a Locum Agency, in the UK's NHS, in hospitals in England and Scotland. With my hopes of remaining permanently in Zimbabwe diminishing, I decided after 6 years on the road, to voluntarily register as a Technician with the

Royal Pharmaceutical Society and settled in the Fair City of Perth (Gateway to the Scottish Highlands) working at the Royal Infirmary for the past 14 years. Following graduation and going our separate ways, in the latter years' mini reunions with Old Rhodian classmates has been a wonderful way of sharing experiences and renewing and strengthening friendships which began in Grahamstown.

Raymond Simmonds

(from Namibia.) Did my Pre-Reg year with Martin Ellenberger at RET Butler's Pharmacy in Grahamstown before being conscripted into the Military (Medical Corps) for two years. Married a GP from Cape Town who was doing her housemanship at the time. Did locums, bought a house, then a pharmacy (both in Cape Town) before deciding to emigrate to Canada. Passed the Canadian PEBC exams, after which my wife decided we should change tack for Scotland instead. (I had a Scottish father and a German mother, so Europe was pretty much open to us.) We (plus our two sons and a daughter) ended up in a big house on the edge of a forest in the North East of Scotland with deer and red squirrels for neighbours. It also usually snows quite a bit in winter, something the Namibian in me will never fully get over. In the UK I worked for several agencies, travelling the length and breadth of the UK giving talks to various NHS groups (mostly consultants), lectures at conferences and publishing articles on appropriate medicine use. Got a call in 2012 from Yvonne who told me about the Rhodes Group, and I have enjoyed all our subsequent meetings.



In 2019 Yvonne invited us all to stay at her lovely home in Sussex and here we all are on the bridge at Shoreham. from left to right: Ray, Yvonne, Claire, Ailsa, Tom.

1977

Barbara Mutch (Jackson)



After practising as a pharmacist for about 6 years, I went into computing, then into IT contract recruitment, then dipped a toe back into pharmacy, and now I write historical fiction. My first novel, *The Housemaid's Daughter*, came out in 2012 and was translated widely. My second novel, *The Girl from Simon's Bay*, was published in 2017, and my latest (title still under wraps) will come out towards the end of this year.

My greetings to my fellow Rhodians! And thanks to the Faculty for creating this opportunity for us all to catch up with one another!

Gerald Squier

After leaving Rhodes and completing my pharmacy pre-registration year I had almost run out of options to dodge military conscription. In 1979 I completed BSc (Hons) in pharmacology at Potchefstroom University and MSc the following year, I had no further avenues for deferment and managed to get a secondment to the Forensic Science Laboratories in Pretoria. Gerald Coleman preceded me in this position. I then took up a position in the Medical Faculty at the University of Pretoria.

Adele (née Beekhuis) and I left South Africa with our two sons in 1986. We settled in East Sussex and I established a community pharmacy there. After three years, better weather beckoned, and we moved to Brisbane in Australia. I was involved in a number of pharmacies in Queensland and Victoria over the years.

We moved to Port Vila, Vanuatu, in late 2014 and I am now retired; other than the odd locum or morning I volunteer at the local hospital.



Adele and Gerald Squier



Port Vila Harbour

Prior to independence in 1971 the archipelago, of roughly 80 islands, was called the New Hebrides, an Anglo-French condominium. We use Bislama (local pigeon English), English and French as our main languages. There is choice of English or French general practitioners and pharmacies. The pharmacy is often the first port of call and there are no restrictions on the drugs we are able to supply. Having trained in Africa is very helpful with all the tropical diseases we encounter locally. Medical evacuations are, unfortunately, required for patients with emergencies, at great expense, to Australia, New Caledonia or New Zealand.

The country is COVID-free but this has had a devastating effect on tourism which is one of the biggest contributors to the local economy. The government has a good money earner selling passports for about USD 200,000 each and local residency is not required. VAT is levied at 12.5% and the taxation rate is zero.

Living in the south west pacific is great and Vanuatu is a country blessed with natural beauty. Earlier

this year we had twenty-three earthquakes above 5.0 within seven days and a tsunami warning. We have two to three cyclones annually and at least two active volcanoes. Having mentioned all the natural excitement; the country has a population below 300,000, the local produce is all organic and the Melanesian landowners are the most caring and welcoming people.

1979

Natie Finkelstein

[Natie Finkelstein received his PhD from Rhodes in 1979. He responded not only to my invitation to write a guest essay for the Review, but to my suggestion that, as an alumnus, he send us an update of his activities since leaving Rhodes forty years ago. He provided me with an account, which he asked me to shorten as I saw fit. I have shortened it very little. (To forestall possible criticism I should perhaps mention that I have not significantly shortened any of the other contributions.) Dr Finkelstein has had an impact on many areas of the profession over more than half a century, and on the career courses of many students – not only those of our Faculty. He is held in the highest esteem by a very large cohort of pharmacists who benefitted from his teaching. Given these considerations I believe his long involvement with the profession should be made known to as wide a group of new-generation pharmacists as possible, and it is a pleasure for me to print his news update in extenso. Ed.]

Four decades after leaving Rhodes University

The lure of the fynbos biome and my abiding love for the Mother City terminated my memorable sojourn of more than a decade with the School of Pharmacy in mid-1981. On returning to Cape Town, I was appointed Director of the School of Pharmacy at the Cape Technikon (simply referred to as ‘the Tech’), my *alma mater*, from which my professional career as a ‘chemist & druggist’ (now ‘pharmacist’) was launched some twenty years previously. The Faculty of Pharmacy at Rhodes subsequently conferred on me the title of Visiting Professor, and that brought me back to the City of Saints on an annual lecturing stint for about ten years.

At first the education of pharmacists continued at ‘the Tech’ as had been done for decades previously via the Diploma in Pharmacy route with the SA Pharmacy Board (now Council) as the external examining body; however, after delicate

negotiations with the Faculties of Medicine of both the University of Cape Town and the University of Stellenbosch, a joint training programme was designed and an agreement signed with the institutions concerned offering students the degree qualification of B Pharm after four years of study. One of the principal advantages of the joint programme was the synergy contributed by the clinical expertise of the medical staff to the pharmaceutical courses offered by pharmaceutical staff members. It seemed to make logical sense that all members of the healthcare team should be trained in the same milieu rather than kept apart. Although this made perfect sense, it was also fraught with difficulties. Not only did it present a logistical nightmare moving students between three different campuses, but my personal stress levels were significantly increased by attempting to serve three different cultures on the faculty boards of each institution. This symbiotic arrangement nevertheless continued most satisfactorily until a rumour suddenly broke that the medical schools were destined to shut down the joint pharmacy programme and the University of the Western Cape would train all future pharmacy students.

Serendipity has a strange way of changing a career and in 1987 I was offered a position with South African Druggists Ltd. I accepted the post of Professional Services Manager of the Link Pharmacy Chain. This was quite a change from the relatively sheltered employ of academe to the hurly-burly of commerce. My brief was to start CPD for all Link pharmacists and auxiliary personnel in the group. I was further required to pioneer multi-professional practice by establishing nursing stations at certain selected Link pharmacies that met the strict criteria under the PharmaCare© franchise. The original uptake was rather slow since pharmacists were not used to practising in conjunction with nurses. It took a while for pharmacists to appreciate that nurses fulfilled different functions in a pharmacy setting by providing advisory services, e.g. infant-feeding, clinical services, e.g. blood-pressure measurement and other healthcare screening tests, preventative healthcare (immunisation services) rehabilitative care, wound dressing and stoma care. These invaluable services supplemented the services associated with medicines ordinarily offered in a pharmacy.

In 2003 I joined the ranks of the unemployed, with a firm resolve not to work for a major corporation,

but to start my own independent enterprise. This led to the birth of the first registered consultant pharmacy in South Africa with myself as the sole owner and responsible pharmacist. The work was very varied and interesting due to the clients for whom I consulted, e.g. GPNet, Clicks, Pharma Dynamics. I also did a fair amount of legal work, formulation, patent challenges etc.

In 2005, the late Mike Perkin of PEI approached me to launch a joint training programme in dispensing for nurses. The opportunity to teach once again beckoned strongly and the two of us ran a most successful programme that eventually even attracted some medical practitioners, who were practising in the rural areas and did their own dispensing. When a buyer arrived out of the blue to purchase my sectional title office and I had by then exceeded the biblical three score and ten by some five years, I decided to hang up my boots and withdraw from active professional practice.

In the forty years since leaving Rhodes, I also had the privilege of serving three five-year terms on two national statutory bodies, *viz.* the South African Pharmacy Council and the South African Nursing Council. Besides attendance at regular meetings of the Councils, I served on many of the expert committees and chaired several of them.

Together with the late Dr Stanley L Javett, I co-authored two books, *Pharmacotherapy for Pharmacists* and *Elementary Clinical Skills for Pharmacists*. I was the Pharmaceutical Editor of *Modern Pharmacy* for many years and also served as the Scientific Editor for *Modern Generics* until both publications were shut down by management.

My return to Cape Town provided me with the opportunity to become active in the politics and professional activities of the profession. I re-joined the CWP Branch of the Pharmaceutical Society of South Africa and, after becoming an Honorary Life Member of the Branch in 1992, I eventually became the Branch Chairman (2001/2002) and then Hon. Treasurer in 2008 until 2017.

I received many other accolades in the profession including Honorary Life Membership of the Academy of Pharmaceutical Sciences in 1992 and Honorary Life Member of the PSSA (2009). One of my most prized distinctions was being awarded Fellowship of the Royal Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain in 1994. In 2018, I received an

unexpected note from the President of the Society, Ashok Soni OBE, congratulating and thanking me for my commitment and contribution to the profession over 50 years of membership. The S A Pharmacy Council also presented me with a Certificate of Long Service Recognition in 2018 after some 56 years on the Register of Pharmacists of the Republic of S A.

Currently, I am the Honorary President of the Pharmaceutical & Technology Clinical Management Association (PTCMA) and have been an ardent member for many years. In 2008 I was awarded Honorary Life Membership of this organisation.

Perhaps one of the most significant and memorable moments of my entire career was the 70th birthday party that was organised in my honour by one of my ex-Rhodes pharmacy students, Lynda Price (née Harries). Students I had taught made a supreme effort to be present at the surprise party, including many of the personalities with whom I had been associated over the years. Needless to say, it was a special night that I shall remember and cherish for the rest of my life. What a memorable and enjoyable reunion!!

My botanical interest has also stood me in good stead. I qualified as a SANBI garden guide some 15 years ago and enjoy taking visitors around our beautiful National Botanic Garden at Kirstenbosch. Every year I host the Froembling Memorial Ramble for pharmacists in honour of our botanical pioneer/pharmacist, the late Dr Walter Froembling. Recently the Botanical Society of South Africa presented me with the Botanical Society Certificate of Merit in the 2020 year for my work as a garden guide, being part of the team that drafted the new constitution for the national body and for promoting the planting of indigenous, water-wise plants in gardens.

To keep my mind further stimulated in my twilight years, I decided to study isiXhosa, and now enjoy being able to converse in a limited manner with Xhosa speakers. If nothing else, I shall at least have the ability to pronounce Gqeberha (formerly Port Elizabeth) correctly. I realise that I am in the 'waiting-room' these days en route to the inevitable and ultimate fate, but I can honestly declare that I have not lived in vain (with free adaptation to Emily Dickinson's poem), Life can be a bit of a roller-coaster, but I have had one helluva ride!!

George Olivier



I've been a lecturer at the Brighton School of Pharmacy since 1994, so have been here for a little over 27 years. I started off as a Senior Lecturer and am now a Principal Lecturer. In the interim I have served as Course Leader for the MPharm (Hons) course, had a long stint as Head of Chemistry and Pharmaceutical Sciences Division, and as Assistant Head of School for five or six years. I went part-time three and a half years ago as part of a gentle transition to full retirement and am supposed to be working three days a week. The reality is rather different and the two busy terms in the year feel a lot closer to full-time work. Happily I do manage to get a better work-life balance over the summer months and keep up an unduly-long to-do list of hobbies and activities. I have a woodworking workshop and also invade my wife's pottery studio to do a bit of throwing and decorating. Glazing pots is all pharmacy, really! Lots of formulation science, physical chemistry, inorganic, toxicology, and risk management. All good for keeping the grey matter working. I also keep chickens and bees, have a greenhouse and veg patch. I have definitive data that shows that guavas and paw-paws do not grow in England! I'm into my music, playing piano, piano accordion and the bagpipes for three Morris dance sides. My neighbours don't complain – maybe it's because we live in the country some distance away from them?

1980

Trish Patterson (White)



Reading the latest Review of Pharmacy at Rhodes University has been uplifting. To reflect on our membership of a special family of pharmacists is good. Thank you to Sirion Robertson and all contributors.

I gave up teaching Science at age 24 and took up Pharmacy at Rhodes, becoming a house warden cum student, and graduated in 1980. It was a blast from the past to see the poem framed for your staff room photo and signed by members of our class. Having completed my postgrad year back home in Rhodesia I look back at the amazingly strong and kind people who have encouraged me on the way; Sirion and all the staff, then my special friends who you may know too; Lisa Dixon, and Grant Taylor (where are you both now?) Mathew Tait and Lyn Terry (Bailey), Ina Hove (Vickerstaff), Dimps Teague, and Jane Sweeney. UK registration required more exams (whilst heavily pregnant!) and another pre-reg stint.

Having married a British (BMAT) man, Malcolm, I followed him to Germany (NATO), and UK (Sandhurst, and Preston). Army life made me a new woman with a wider perspective on the world! When his army career was complete I could stop doing locums in retail. We invested ourselves (body and soul) into a pharmacy in the Forest of Dean, Gloucestershire. Now retired and having sold the business to Boots we still live in this exquisite part of the world in the house Mal renovated. We have an amazing daughter Carol and a wonderful grandson George. We took on a holiday home near Kenton-on-Sea to escape the UK winter. (Look for us on Bushman's beach at low tide.) The Eastern Cape has kept on calling to

us in so many ways. Retail pharmacy taught me that a professional needs to hear the alarm bells ring and Rhodes University rigged those in my brain. Computer patient records and learning are just the bell tower.

Being a proprietor of one pharmacy is so very rewarding. You can win people's trust. They want help to understand conditions, pre-empt illness, distinguish between minor and major ailments, care for their children, and escape addiction and anxiety. It was made especially focused for me because Mal took all the financial and retail management work under his wing. Alongside Gloucestershire pharmacists, we worked to open two new pharmacies to prevent more dispensing by doctors. However I left the profession still worried about what I call the "fragile therapeutic chain". Most people have very little knowledge of the working of their own bodies, let alone the reason for any specific medicine. From an ill person to successful outcomes, the best efforts of doctors can fail if a pharmacist does not check and liaise with them, supply the correct medicine, correct age-specific doses, and reassure people after short intense doctor appointments. We must give trusted advice, and guidance, timely supply of repeat prescriptions, monitored dosage to the forgetful, and notice drug-related issues and poor compliance. The doctor-pharmacist relationship is crucial. The relationship breaks down or does not exist if doctors or warehouses want the income from dispensing. Beware the dispensing doctor with a conflict of interest, and now on-line dispensing. Both have no face-to-face independent pharmacist to protect and guide the patient. Fight to build our Pharmacy House with the prescribing doctor as "architect" (hopefully advised by clinical pharmacists) and an independent pharmacist "surveyor" close to the patient at home.

1983

Clive Scotney

After graduating I did my internship at Grey's Hospital, Pietermaritzburg. Since I had a bursary from the NPA while at Rhodes, I had to work it back so stayed on at Grey's Hospital until 1988, when I accepted a Senior Pharmacist position at Greytown Hospital. I thoroughly enjoyed my time in Hospital Pharmacy but in 1990 got the opportunity to join Old Rhodians Colin and

Colleen Burden as a partner in their business Wembley Pharmacy back in Pietermaritzburg.

I spent a happy ten years in this dynamic pharmacy before we decided to emigrate to Australia in 2000, with our two children, then aged 3 and 5. After sitting the APEC exams and another internship I was able to register as a pharmacist in Australia. We settled in Hervey Bay, Queensland and after initially working at our local hospital, I was able to purchase my first pharmacy in Australia, from another Old Rhodian Kevin Galloway. The Rhodes network extends around the world! I ended up owning four pharmacies before selling up and semi retiring in 2017. My wife was very involved in the businesses, and we travel as much as we can and I do the odd locum when at home.

On our travels I always catch up with old friends, and old Rhodes pharmacists I have recently seen are **Carol Molloy (Fenn)** and **Bev Glass** in Townsville, **Lint and Janine Hackland** in Palmerston North, New Zealand, **Mary-Anne Schekman** in London. On our many trips to South Africa I usually catch up with **Peter Makowem**, **Mark Mousley**, **Lu Westensee (Anderson)**, **Mike Bailey**, **Anne Chadwick (de Wet)** and **Wendy Brown (Turner)**.



Clive with his wife Kerry, children Guy and Samantha, and their dog Roxy.

Have the best memories of my time at Rhodes and our family still has a house at Kasouga. In spite of being able to travel to some amazing spots in the world nothing makes me happier than to stand on Ship Rock with a rod in my hand. Ja swaer!

We love Albany and always visit on our return. I am from 1820 settler stock, Kent family name. Enjoyed reading your review, a wonderful record of events but more importantly the people

involved. I was interested to read Paul Leach was one of the first students; at one stage in the late 80s I attempted to buy his pharmacy in Port Alfred. Look forward to the next review.

Bernard Symon

I have lived and worked in the UK for the past 23 years. I have worked as a science technician for 18 years at a boys' high school in London. In 2018 I achieved a PhD from the Pharmacy Department at the UWC by correspondence. It involved the investigation of placing pharmacists into their ideal workplace according to their brain laterality. I now have five degrees and three diplomas. Kind regards to all.



1987

Dushen and Anita Chetty (Lalloo)

(1987, 1993)

Anita graduated from Rhodes with a BPharm (1993) and an MSc (1997). Dushen graduated in 1987. They met at an Academy of Pharmaceutical Sciences conference at Rhodes, having been introduced to each other by Professor Billy Futter. They both went on to study in the US, married in 1997 and have three sons who are in middle and high school. They live in Philadelphia, PA.

From Anita:

After completing a PhD at Rutgers University, I joined Merck/ MSD and have worked in various roles from early drug development to commercial

manufacturing over the last 15 years. In my last role, I was responsible for the registrations of new medicines globally, focusing on chemistry and manufacturing submissions to Health Authorities. I enjoyed exploring novel drug delivery platforms in graduate school and then, at Merck, focused on developing regulatory considerations for innovative manufacturing technologies, such as 3D printing and continuous manufacturing. In April 2021 I joined Global Regulatory Affairs to broaden my regulatory experience in the clinical area and am excited that I will be working on innovative antimicrobials and antiviral therapies. Travelling, watching my sons' soccer games and keeping fit are some of the activities that I enjoy to balance out work.

From Dushen:

After Rhodes, I did a Master's at UKZN, followed by a year of research at King's College London on a British Council Fellowship. I then moved to the US to do a PhD in Drug Delivery at Rutgers University (New Jersey) on a Fulbright Scholarship. This was followed by two years back in SA as Associate Professor of Pharmaceutics at UKZN. I really wanted to work in pharma R&D, so I then returned to the US and joined GSK in New Jersey. At GSK, I had various R&D roles for 15 years, including two years on global assignment in Singapore with my family. In 2016 I moved to J&J, leading Oncology R&D projects, employing innovative platforms like targeted radiopharmaceuticals, oncolytic viruses and novel intravesical devices to develop medicines for patients with prostate and bladder cancer. Very recently (April 2021), I have joined Novartis as VP, Global Program Head, Melanoma, where I will have responsibility for building a pipeline of innovative therapies. In my spare time, I continue to enjoy running and have completed six marathons (on five continents).



1990

Jacqueline Joss (Pilzer)

I moved to the US a few years after graduating from Rhodes to enroll in the two-year “add on Pharm D program” at University of Iowa. I then completed the PGY1 pharmacy Residency at the University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics. When entering residency I was pretty sure I wanted to practice in critical care, but instead I discovered my passion for ambulatory care during residency and that is where I have practiced ever since. I stayed on at UIHC for 5 years working in Internal Medicine, Geriatrics and Gastroenterology. I was a preceptor for the PGY1 residency as well as starting a PGY2 residency in amb care with a colleague. In 2001 my husband’s job took us to Oregon where I was hired by Samaritan Health to start a PGY1 residency. Our residency is now in its 18th year and it is a blended program with exposure to ambulatory care and inpatient care. See <https://www.samhealth.org/careers-education/internships-other-training/pharmacy-program>. Our ambulatory care pharmacist group in the medical clinics has grown to a team of 14 in 9 clinics, and we practice via collaborative practice protocol managing anticoagulation, anemia, hypertension, heart failure, COPD, asthma and diabetes. With the help of our resident we have been able to conduct several research studies. Many were related to starting new services, quality assessment and improvement and some were randomised trials published in the peer reviewed literature.

I am currently working on a publication with cardiology in regards to the use of the direct acting oral anticoagulants in the obese population. Anticoagulation is a special interest of mine and I am currently working on a system wide process to make planned procedures safer in patient who are on antiplatelets and anticoagulants. I have also developed a special interest in multiple myeloma and the associated precursor conditions, specifically the factors that lead some patients to progress from MGUS or smoldering myeloma to multiple myeloma. I have become an advocate for improving enrollment in clinical trials so that we can learn about these factors. Helping clinical trials meet enrollment numbers will ensure better treatments becoming available for future generations. I have really enjoyed working at Samaritan Health. The organisation does a great job engaging its employees in doing what

is best for the patient and being open to ideas that will make things better for the patient. I was very humbled when I received an award from the state pharmacy association a few years ago, (<https://www.samhealth.org/about-samaritan/news-search/2019/05/22/pharmacist-receives-statewide-award>), but can honestly say I could not do any of it without my amazing team and great leadership. The quote by the great Will Mayo says it so well: “If the interest of the patient is to be considered, a union of the forces is necessary” Side note: If you want to learn about a TRULY inspiring story, check out the Ken Burns documentary of how the Mayo clinic was started: <https://www.pbs.org/kenburns/the-mayo-clinic/>

On the personal front: I am married to Randy whom I met way back when I was a high school exchange student in Iowa before I got my degree at Rhodes. We have two children. Sydney is 23 and majored in mass communication and marketing at Linfield College and she is currently working in Portland. Our son Oliver is 20 and he is completing his degree in business finance and accounting at Pacific University. We love Oregon for the great weather and beautiful landscape. Both our kids were into sports growing up and the high school years were filled with basketball, baseball, softball, track and cross country. While our son still runs track and cross country for Pacific, it was quite a change in pace when they graduated from high school and we had to fill our free time with events other than cheering the kids on at sporting events. We now have a couple of cats that we can spoil at home now that the kids are out of the house.

Thank you for allowing me to update you on my doings and thank you for your hard work in putting the review together!!



Randy, Sydney, Jacqueline, Oliver.

1990

Mrs Natasha Chiba



I enrolled for the BPharm degree in 1990. I thoroughly enjoyed my first and only year in the course and learnt a lot about the field. I carry that knowledge with me today and that has stood me in good stead over the years. I realised however, that my true passion lay elsewhere and did not pursue this degree further.

In 1991 I enrolled at UNISA for the BProc degree, which I completed in 1995. I was awarded a bursary for academic achievements.

Today, I am a practising attorney having completed my BProc degree in 1996. I am the senior partner in my own firm in Benoni which I started in March 2005 and am proud to say that the firm serves on the legal panel of, amongst others, the City of Ekurhuleni and the Legal Practitioners' Fidelity Fund.

I am the mother of two daughters who have also elected to study Law and who are currently enrolled at UP.

the position of HIV Pharmacist. As such, I was able to assist in several medical trials for two trial centres situated at the hospital. I stayed on at Karl Bremer until my retirement at the end of January 2020. As my lecturers and friends from Rhodes will remember, I was a mature student when I studied for my degree, hence why I am now retired.

My reason for studying Pharmacy at Rhodes was mainly due to the fact that my older brother, Ray Simmonds, had done his Pharmacy degree at Rhodes (1973-1976). After hearing from him how much he had enjoyed his time there, I felt I simply had to follow in his footsteps and was pleased that I did. We also had many of the same lecturers, so I felt like I knew them already when I got there, such as Prof Wilson who was of great assistance to me during my studies.

My partner, Clive Bodill (originally from Grahamstown) and I were fortunate enough to spend an afternoon with Sirion Robertson and his wife Sally-Ann in April 2021 during a short visit to Grahamstown. Reminiscing with them about earlier times brought back so many fond memories of my years at Rhodes.



Vera Simmonds and Clive Bodill

1994

Vera Simmonds

My final year at Rhodes University was 1994. As I loved living in Grahamstown, I was fortunate to be able to do my internship there at Settlers' Hospital under Doug Scott. Once qualified I stayed on at Settlers' until the end of September 2001, before moving back to Cape Town to take care of my elderly parents who have since passed away. In Cape Town I started working at Karl Bremer Hospital and, after a few years, was given

2006

Himesh Trivedi



A lot has happened since I graduated. I lived in Zimbabwe and worked as a Business Development Manager for a local pharma company before moving to Auckland, New Zealand in 2015, where I completed my postgraduate diploma in Business Administration. I worked in the operations division of a multinational pharmaceutical company as a team leader for the sterile compounding of chemotherapy, antibiotics and various other drugs that require sterile compounding. (I still remember the lectures Prof Walker gave on sterile compounding!) I moved to the commercial sector in the same company as a sales specialist, looking after all the public hospitals in New Zealand. It's been a lovely experience and I am really enjoying it. I am married and have two wonderful daughters.

I hope the Pharma team at Rhodes are doing well. I have fond memories of Rhodes and do intend to visit, once we are clear of COVID. Please pass my regards to all the lecturers and faculty members.

2008

Shaheed Ganiwalla



It is such a pleasure to hear from the pharmacy department! I have been following the activities of the University as well as the Pharmacy Faculty

and I must congratulate the efforts of the Faculty in reducing the spread of COVID-19 though distribution of hand sanitisers.

After graduation in 2009 I returned to Mombasa, Kenya and completed my registration with the Pharmacy and Poisons Board. I was then posted by the Government to a level 4 hospital specialising in the treatment of TB and MDR-TB. I worked in a private hospital for a year and joined Bomu Hospital in 2012. Bomu Hospital is a level 4 NGO primarily funded through the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. It runs the largest HIV program in the coastal region, with over 22,000 active patients on care and treatment. I joined as a program officer heading the TB/HIV, PMTCT, and HEI programs. Over the next few years I was promoted to the position of Deputy Program Coordinator overseeing the entire program.

In 2016, I was promoted to Head of the Pharmacy Department, and I continue to occupy this position. I manage a total of 8 pharmacies across three counties and I remain the sole pharmacist in the Institution. I have now enrolled for an online Master of Pharmacy degree with the University of KwaZulu, Natal, specialising in pharmacoeconomics.

I strongly believe that apart from clinical pharmacy, Pharmacy Admin and Practise at Rhodes University built a strong foundation on which I am able to fall back when it comes to management of a department. Although I do not dispense much now, the foundation for management was laid at the university level. I will always be proud to be called a graduate of Rhodes University!

2011

Chiko Chakaingesu

Residing in Cape Town for the past five years where I am working as a Regulatory Pharmacist. I recently hiked up Table Mountain via Platteklip Gorge for the first time in January 2021. I must say I wanted to give up five minutes into the hike but I carried on and reached the top after three hours and some minutes. It was a lot of crawling up the big boulders and it taught me a lesson on perseverance.

Cape Town is certainly a beautiful place to work during the week and relax over the weekend.

2014

Avishkaar Rampearie

In 2017 I became the youngest Pharmacy Manager in the Lenmed Group. I then went on to become the Group Pharmacy Practice Manager in 2020 within the Busamed Group, looking after Hospitals from a pharmacy practice and financial perspective across the country.

2016

Nakul Patel

Completed my BPharm and moved back home to Malawi after a wonderful four years there. I soon after applied for the OSPAP (Overseas Pharmacists Assessment Programme) at Kingston University in London in 2017 and after graduating with my PGDip I started my pre-registration training (equivalent to the South Africa's internship) in 2018. After a year of gruelling training I passed and registered as a pharmacist in 2019. I started working as a locum pharmacist, but unfortunately not too long after, the COVID pandemic reached the UK. The need of locums reduced so I decided to start my masters. Currently am doing a part-time MSc in Health Economics at City University, London.

2019

Sam Okeyo

After graduating I decided to do my Master's at Rhodes University. In 2020 I started in Pharmacy practice with Professor Ros Dowse as my supervisor. In February 2020 as part of the

course I went on the Transnet phelophepa train, which was stationed at Idutywa. I was there for a one week assisting the pharmacy. In addition to this myself and **Luthando Sibiba** (4th year Rhodes Pharmacy pharmacy student) conducted a health promotion campaign where we gave a presentation on peripheral neuropathy to the patients who were coming to the train.

In March 2020 I attended (together with my supervisor) the 34th Annual Conference of the South African Association of Hospital and Institutional Pharmacists (SAAHIP) in Centurion. I gave a poster presentation at this conference.



Sam Okeyo with Prof Ros Dowse (his supervisor) at SAAHIP

Memorabilia ...

While this Review was being prepared Natie Finkelstein sent us an ‘archival’ picture. Here it is.

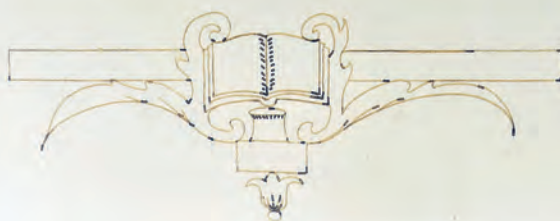


The members of the group are: back row, from left, Raj Naidoo, Santy Daya, Egil Ramstad, Beverley Wilson, John Haigh, Lambe Parolis (with frame), Natie Finkelstein, George Roberts. Front row, from left: Gerrit Fourie, Len Paton, Ben Potgieter, Sirion Robertson. Only seven of the twelve people in the picture are still with us. (I should say ‘at the time of writing. ..’; in dealing with memorabilia one needs to be careful with this sort of statement.)

It was sent to Dr Finkelstein by Denzil Beukes, who lectured in the Faculty from 1999 to 2013. Denzil knew nothing about the photo: he was a child when it was taken. Natie sent it to me, for inclusion in the ‘Memorabilia’ section of this Review. He noted, in his covering email, that he could no longer remember what the picture commemorated, but was confident that some other members of the group would be able to elucidate. I didn’t remember anything about it. I sent it to Professor Parolis. He didn’t have ‘the foggiest’. I sent it to Prof Wilson. Same response. Prof Santy Daya had some small recollection of

it, but I was beginning to fear that its significance was irretrievably lost. Emeritus Professor John Haigh came to the rescue. The photo, he tells us (‘reminds’ is too strong a word) was taken at Leavers’ Dinner, 1980, by final year student Mark Finnigan. He went on to identify the item Prof Parolis is holding in the picture – a plaque carrying signatures of the class of ’80 – but made no further comment. It turns out that the plaque has been hanging in our tearoom for nearly forty years. (Two tearooms in succession, actually.) See below.

Though hard to prove, we tried our best
To rise above 'mundane'
Here's hoping you're all filled with zest
Cause you drove us all insane!



Class of '80

Ade Murray
 Tuck White
 Mark van Wyk
 M. Reigadas.
 Ali Capt-Java.
 Vicens Schwider
 E. Sweeney
 Anika VandenH.
 I Shore
 L. O'Halloran
 B. Sonagosa
 Jim H. Heals
 A. Law
 Marshall
 C. Ho
 G. Ho
 Florogin
 Ornatiuel
 S. Wing
 A. von Oppen
 Holmwell
 D. Ho
 Deu
 Roberts.
 Rhoad
 S. Hyscaeweni
 B. Jusk
 Enkhudgove
 Jome
 Rheinard.
 Rhein.
 B. Grunmings
 Lind Hiel
 Janet Wilson.
 M. TEREZANIS
 D. Novosied
 M. Wadhams
 D. Teague
 Swalker
 G. Phillips
 L. S. Arthers
 J. de Costa
 P.W. Dell.
 R. Bailey
 B. Hobbs.
 L. Sulder.
 Louis Kottis
 Nizay Sinsapf.
 Robinson
 Anderson
Mansington
 L. Zov.
 L. Dixon
 A. Martin
 A. Ah. Yui
 G. Dorowooly
 Kling
 Shargha
 Durkeni.
 Peter Eden Ubasia
 K. Hoffener
 Sillegien
 L. Barnes
 A.P. Richards
 G.A. Jackson - Moss
 S. Kishovite
 Davis Johnson
 Pamela Priddyng.
 Jennifer Sweet
 G. F. King
 D.J. Napelt
 SO'Connor

There's a pleasing circularity to this little story. Just before going to press I emailed Denzil and asked him if he could find out anything about the photograph. It turns out that his wife, Edith, had found it on Facebook. It was posted, she tells us – by Professor Haigh.

On the subject of our recently re-started annual reviews, we apologise for the delay in sending out the link to the previous online Review (the catch-up Review 2009-2019). In case anyone still hasn't received it, here it is:

https://www.ru.ac.za/media/rhodesuniversity/content/pharmacy/documents/Pharmacy_Review_2009-2019_web_res.pdf

Technical and administrative support in 2020

Mr Niall Borland, Manager: Admin & Technical support.

2020 started as any normal year and then COVID hit, sending staff and students home. As one can imagine, some staff could work productively from home and a hybrid model was adopted, working partly at home and in the office. However for technical staff it was more tricky as the work is mainly hands on. This difficulty was short-lived however, as our pharmacy students were the first to return to campus for the required practical sessions. Apart from the growing numbers of students and the same building infrastructure limitations, we were now faced with the added challenge of reducing the occupancy within a given laboratory to 50% due to the pandemic. This meant repeating practicals up to four times a practical which required additional work, effort and commitment. There were difficulties and frustrations, but overall they were implemented

and the students received the vital practical knowledge which is critical in making sense of the theory. The fact that this was achieved while having a vacancy in the laboratory assistant role in the pharmaceutical chemistry division made it all the more commendable.

In the administrative section we had the ever-reliable presence of Ms Linda Emslie and Mrs Tanya Kent, two stalwarts who have been physically at work through out the pandemic providing the necessary support to both staff and students. They both volunteered to assist with collating and distributing the teaching material to students in the early part of the pandemic, a mammoth task as this was all done in hard copies and posted home to students.

A huge vote of thanks to the both of them!

Staff

The technical staff of the Faculty of Pharmacy include:



Ms Amanda Zuma

Principal Technical officer in Pharmacy Practice and Pharmacology divisions;

Amanda writes: I'm excited to mention my enrolment for MSc in Biochemistry (part-time) in the year 2020. I was honoured to be accepted and become a member of the University's Biomedical Biotechnology Research Unit (BioBRU), under the supervision and guidance of Professor Adrienne Edkins. I wish to give gratitude to the University for continuously encouraging staff development, and ensuring that every staff member is able to benefit from the learning environment that they work in on a daily basis, ultimately reaching their potential and improving their skills and competencies in their designated working areas.

My 2020 community engagements included volunteering for screening the Makhanda community- Somerset Heights area for Covid-19 symptoms in order for them to get tested at the mobile clinic facility in the area. This was a Department of Health initiative that the Faculty of Pharmacy was also involved in.



Mr Sibusiso Ngxingo
Principal Technical officer in the Pharmaceutics division;



Mr Thandoxolo Fleck
Senior Laboratory assistant;



Mr Likhaya Hempe,
Senior Laboratory assistant in the Pharmacy Practice and Pharmacology divisions



Linda Emslie
Office Administrator



Tanya Kent
Administrative Assistant

The Quest For Excellence

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

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

Over the years we have had support from a number of our pharmacy graduates, many of whom have made donations on a regular basis. We are very grateful for this support and value deeply all contributions made.

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

Account Name: Rhodes University
Account Type: Public Sector Managed Account
Account Number: 62145503076
Branch Code: 210717
Branch Name: GRAHAMSTOWN, C.P.232
Swift Code: FIRNZAJJ

Please use the Reference: "Quest for Excellence 25009"

All donations are tax deductible.

Your support will be much appreciated.



FACULTY OF PHARMACY ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

1959 - 1985

BSc (Pharm) 1959 - 1972

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

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

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

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

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

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

1964 Monk DM (P)
1965 Albertyn JR (C)
Khan MW (P)
Plummer PE (P)

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

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

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

1969 Persicaner PHR (C)
Taylor M (C)

van Rensburg NE (P)

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

1972 Horne JH (C)

BPharm 1973 - 1979

1974 Bodley JA (PCL)

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

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

1977 Smith IR (PCL)

1979 Robinson EW (PCL)
Shapiro IB (PCL)

Vos LI (PCL)

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

BPharm 1980 -

1980 Cock AJ
Cumming ML
Dunstan NG
Titely PS

1981 Walker SM

1982 Taylor SV

1983 Anderson AN
Field AJ
Kola I
Smith EW

1985 Ashworth T
D'Hotman de Villiers DM
Salter GS

1985 - 2015

Stanley SMR

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

1987 Denton LC
Lindsay LD

1988 Clayton ML

1989 Whittaker DV

1990 Black RA

1992 Hooper GJ
Krug BC

1993 Baxter MC

1994 Lalloo AK

1995 Nagar BD

Wagner C

1997 Fourie J
Seigel AT

1998 Toogood BR

1999 Claassens C
Verner JJ

2000 Rockcliffe N

2004 Chamboko BV
Mollet H
Palvie SM

2005 Cassim L
Chalava FA
Jain G
Muller AC

2006 Afolayan AF
Scheepers MW

Degree with Distinction

2007 Amoo MA

Becker RG
Bosch C
Majekwana VJ
Mundia SM
Vushemasimba V

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

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

2010 Magnus L
Munedzimwe TC

2011 Fakee J

Gibbs S-A
Moeller KV

2012 Mafundikwa K
Mukozhwa S
Munda K
Mutotera K

2013 Fakir SI
Tichiwangana NY

2014 Kativhu RP
Masakusi P
Matsikidze BT
Nell SC
Okeyo ILA

2015 Chikukwa MIR
Chiwanza F
Kima TM
Kangansaru ST
Marinwe C
Ranchhod J

2016 -

2016 Essa S
Lunga MJ
Marekera FS
Melamane S
Musakana IG
Shalk N

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

2018 Badal SJ
Bhoora A

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

2019 Boodhoo P
Cox D

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

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

ACADEMY OF PHARMACEUTICAL SCIENCES



AWARD FOR ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

B.Pharm 1

2005 MASTER MG
2006 MAGNUS L
2007 MHAKA FA
2008 MAFUNDIKWA K
2009 SIGAUKE K
2010 NELL SC
2011 KIMA TM
2012 LUNGA MJ
2013 HADEBE BT
2014 GANI KB
2015 JAUNKY CD
2016 CHIBANDA AP
2017 ODENDAAL C
2018 GORE TC
2019 SIBANDA A.M
2020 RATHOBOTHA ML

B.Pharm 2

2005 MAREDZA M
2006 MASTER MG
2007 MAGNUS L
2008 CALDER AJ
2009 MUTOTERA KC
2010 FAKIR SI
2011 KATIVHU RP
2012 KANGAUSARA ST
2013 LUNGA MJ
2014 MBUTHO PSE
2015 GANI KB
2016 MBAWULI Z
2017 FOURIE DH
2018 IBITAYO AA
2019 GORE T.C
2020 SIBANDA AM

B.Pharm 3

2005 VUSHEMASIMBA V
2006 PREMJI NBM
2007 MASTER MG
2008 MAGNUS L
2009 FAKEE J
2010 MAFUNDIKWA K
2011 FAKIR SI
2012 NELL SC
2013 RANCHHOD J
2014 MUSAKANA T
2015 MBUTHO PSE
2016 GANI KB
2017 SINGH M
2018 FOURIE DH
2019 KADER T
2020 RAJU N

B.Pharm 4

2005 SCHEEPERS MW
2006 MAJEKWANA VJ
2007 PREMJI NBM
2008 JHUNDOO H
2009 MAGNUS L
2010 FAKEE J
2011 MUNDA K
2012 FAKIR SI
2013 MASAKUSI P
2014 CHIWANZA F
2015 ESSA S
2016 MBUTHO PSE
2017 SCHNABEL GR
2018 MAMODE ALLY R
2019 FOURIE D.H
2020 ODENDAAL C

Concluding remarks

As we go to press, vaccines against COVID-19 are being rolled out in South Africa and elsewhere. Masks are coming off (though not yet here), and social activities are returning to some normality. Herd immunity will come to our further defence, and another pandemic – perhaps one of the worst in recorded history – will slowly recede into the lumber rooms of group memory. (A local person, while recording my skin temperature, recently remarked to me that I must be able to remember the ‘Spanish Flu’ pandemic. I pointed out, gently, that that was in 1919-1920, and that I was born in the early 40s. Perhaps I look even older than I am.)

Although it is too early to write ‘finis’ to the COVID experience – indeed it may be very much too early – 2020/21 will probably be seen as the epicentre of the pandemic. This Review has been concerned largely with its impact on the Faculty’s and the University’s activities through 2020. Lives have been disrupted; many lives have been lost. The Faculty, the University, and society at large have responded bravely and well to the situation, and all of us hope, with some justification and confidence, that the coming year will be an improvement on the ones just past. The global and local underlying maladies will remain.

There are, without any doubt, more pandemics in the biological pipeline. Virologists and

epidemiologists have put across the message unequivocally: as the global population expands and increasingly intrudes upon the environment, more pandemics are to be expected. There is no reason to expect that the present one is worse than those to come.

I thought of calling this Review ‘the soft-covid edition’, but it will, like the previous one, be mainly an online publication. The link will be circulated to our graduates very shortly after it goes online.

In 2019 I happened to read a book called *The Viral Storm*, sub-titled *The Dawn of a New Pandemic Age*, by Nathan Wolfe (Allen Lane, 2011). It had been on my bookshelf and my agenda for a couple of years. Reading it turned out to be a prophetic experience. The book was still on my bedside table when news started coming in from a place called Wuhan, in far-away China.

It should of course go without saying, but let it be said anyway, that the views expressed by the Editor do not necessarily reflect those of Rhodes University or any of its members.

We wish all of you a safe and upward-looking year. Keep your masks on, keep your distance, and get vaccinated when you can. Take care. Good luck.

The Editor.



The Eastern Cape has been very serious about promoting the COVID-19 vaccination campaign.

Acknowledgements

I must express my thanks to the Dean, Professor Khamanga, for having again invited me to put together the Faculty Review.

I thank also the Registrar, Professor Adele Moodly, for her generous and very informative response to my request that she write an introductory piece for the Review.

I thank Dr Natie Finkelstein, my old friend and senior colleague (old in the sense of long duration, though neither of us is getting any younger: we won't see 40 again) for his Guest Essay – 'To vax, or not to vax'. (I hope you've convinced some of the very few of our readers who might have needed convincing, Natie.)

Next I must thank the many people who have contacted us. We are delighted that so many of you responded to the invitation to send us news of your whereabouts and doings. To all our graduates, do please know that you have an open invitation to update us from time to time. We hope we'll be able to keep the Review going. That at least is the intention.

Thanks also to those several readers who sent us feedback on our Review of 2009-2019. We're glad you found it interesting. And again to all our graduates, please feel free to let us know what you think of this one. We welcome suggestions for improving it.

Mr Neill Kievit, of MMK Architects, Port Elizabeth, sent me information and several photographs for our piece on renovation of the tower clock. We acknowledge our gratitude in the postscript.

Emeritus Professor John Haigh kindly agreed to my request that he act as one of our proof readers. I offered him a bottle of wine in thanks, but he declined. My wife and I drank it on his behalf. It was excellent. Thank you John. Dr Leonie Goosen, Emeritus Prof Beverley Wilson, Dr Carmen Oltmann, Prof Sandile Khamanga and Dr Sally-Ann Robertson also proof-read the document and contributed significantly to the finished version. I didn't offer any of them wine. (Sorry chaps, but I thought it was something I could ask of you by virtue of your being in the Faculty – or, in one case, being married to the editor. But thank you nonetheless.) I am of course solely responsible for any errors or typos that might have escaped the penetrating scrutiny of this small cohort of dedicated proof readers.

As with the previous Review, Bronwyn Tweedie, of the Rhodes Printing Unit, has done an excellent job on layout, and on designing the cover.

And a vote of thanks from the Faculty and myself to the stalwarts of the administrative section: Tanya Kent and Linda Emslie.

The Editor.

Postscript: the iconic clock tower

An Arabian proverb has it that man fears time, and time fears the pyramids.

The University is to be commended in having recently replaced the long-defunct drive of its tower clock, and thus courageously restarting the display, from the iconic tower, of passing time.

The original bell is still in place, as is a large electric motor that actuated a striker. A new electronically-controlled striker has been installed, and it struck the hour (eleven) while we were a couple of metres from it. “The speed and force of the percussion is adjustable to ensure that the sound is harmonious and powerful.” (From the technical information leaflet supplied by Messrs Cornelius Lehr, Antiquarian Horologist, the Johannesburg-based firm that did the installation.) Fortunately the noise left our eardrums intact.

We had climbed the corkscrew staircase (‘spiral’ is too loose a word) to admire and photograph the workings. Although interesting, it was actually rather disappointing visually: a couple of perspex boxes housing inscrutable electronic equipment, and the two physically insignificant motors that turn the hands of the two clock faces.

But the clock is again running, and seems to be keeping time very well.

We are grateful to Mr Neill Kievit, of MMK Architects, Port Elizabeth, for information and several photographs.



A view over campus looking towards the library; taken from the topmost room of the clock tower.

Before replacement: the original striker and mechanism in the tower clock.



After replacement: the modern mechanisms that keep the tower clock running on time.



