GRADUATION CEREMONY

Faculty of Health Sciences (Ceremony 1)

SARAH BAARTMAN HALL

1 April 2025

FACULTY OF HEALTH SCIENCES (CEREMONY 1)

ORDER OF PROCEEDINGS

Academic Procession.

(The congregation is requested to stand as the procession enters the hall)

The Presiding Officer will constitute the congregation.

The National Anthem.

Welcome by the Master of Ceremonies.

Musical Item.

The Orator will present Professor Michael R Hayden to the Presiding Officer for the award of an honorary degree.

The graduands and diplomates will be presented to the Presiding Officer by the Dean of the faculty.

The Presiding Officer will congratulate the new graduates and diplomates.

The Master of Ceremonies will make closing announcements and invite the congregation to stand.

The Presiding Officer will dissolve the congregation.

The procession, including the new graduates and diplomates, will leave the hall.

(The congregation is requested to remain standing until the procession has left the hall.)

NATIONAL ANTHEM

Nkosi sikelel' iAfrika
Maluphakanyisw' uphondolwayo,
Yizwa imithandazo yethu,
Nkosi sikelela, thina lusapho lwayo.

Morena boloka etjhaba sa heso,
O fedise dintwa la matshwenyeho,
O se boloke,
O se boloke setjhaba sa heso,
Setjhaba sa South Afrika – South Afrika.

Uit die blou van onse hemel,
Uit die diepte van ons see,
Oor ons ewige gebergtes,
Waar die kranse antwoord gee,

Sounds the call to come together,
And united we shall stand,
Let us live and strive for freedom,
In South Africa our land.

HONORARY DEGREE

Professor Michael R Hayden

Doctor of Science in Medicine *(honoris causa)*

Professor Hayden is an exceptionally distinguished alumnus of UCT whose lifetime achievements as a clinician-scientist, entrepreneur and humanitarian have made him a guiding light in biomedical research and a great inspiration to friends and colleagues across the world. Professor Hayden's achievements provide a brilliant example of how to make advances in basic scientific discovery and apply them for the improvement of human health.

Professor Hayden graduated from UCT with a First Class Honours in MBChB in 1975. After obtaining his PhD in Human Genetics and Diploma in Child Health from UCT in 1979, he went abroad to further his career in medical genetics, completing a postdoctoral fellowship and residency in Internal Medicine from Harvard Medical School before moving to the University of British Columbia (UBC) in 1983.

Professor Hayden has demonstrated exceptional leadership in biomedical sciences, making seminal contributions in the areas of medical genetics, Huntington's disease and other neurodegenerative diseases, lipid disorders and type 2 diabetes. His name is synonymous with Huntington's disease research: He is the world's most highly cited author on this disorder. Professor Hayden has published more than 1100 peer- reviewed articles, chapters and reviews which have garnered more than 100 000 citations. Of his publications, no less than 275 are "citation classics", having been cited more than 100 times each. Professor Hayden has mentored 45 postgraduate students and 87 postdoctoral fellows.

Professor Hayden has produced many ground-breaking "firsts" in this field including a seminal paper published in *The Lancet* in 1977. Throughout his career in research, he has contributed innovative ideas, hypotheses, observations, and experiments that have led to many advances of significance to medical science. He has also played a leading role in developing predictive tests for patients and their family members, providing principles for the emerging field of personalized genomic medicine, and serving as a model for other predictive testing programmes.

As a global leader, Professor Hayden is well known for having played a transformational role in translational research. By translating his scientific discoveries from the bench to the bedside, he has brought hope to patients suffering from neurodegenerative and cardiovascular diseases. He co-founded three successful Canadian biotechnology companies, In recognition of his wide-ranging contributions to knowledge relevant to the biopharmaceutical industry, he was awarded the Prix Galien in 2007. In 2022, Professor Hayden was named as one of the 100 Most Inspiring People in Life Sciences by PharmaVOICE.

The numerous honours awards that Professor Hayden has received include induction into the Canadian Medical Hall of Fame for profoundly advancing understanding of the genetic basis of Huntington disease in 2017; the Order of Canada; an Honorary Doctorate in Medicine from the University of Gottingen; the Killam Prize from the Canada Council of the Arts in recognition of outstanding career achievements; the Canada Gairdner Wightman Prize from the Gairdner Foundation; the Luminary Award for 2014 from the Personalized Medicine World Conference; the Guthrie Humanitarian Award from the Huntington Disease Society of America; and the David Dubinsky Humanitarian Award from the Soroka Medical Center.

Over the course of his career, Professor Hayden has made many humanitarian contributions, spearheading endowments in global health, mental health and rare diseases. In collaboration with the Desmond Tutu HIV Foundation, he led fundraising efforts to help establish the Youth Centre in Masiphumelele which was opened in 2010. He also used his 2008 Canada Health Researcher of the Year award as seed funding for an endowment to establish the Ripples of Hope Program. This money was used to create Trainee Awards in the areas of Global Health, Rare Diseases, Mental Health and Biotechnology & Entrepreneurship which have enabled international postdoctoral fellows to train in these areas at UBC.

NAMES OF GRADUANDS/DIPLOMATES

FACULTY OF HEALTH SCIENCES

Dean: A/Professor L Green-Thompson

HIGHER CERTIFICATE IN DISABILITY PRACTICE

Dingane, Simnikiwe
Johnson, Sasha-Lee
Mohamed, Waseem
Monyolo, Wandile
Ntantiso, Zikho
Roets, Andrew Anthony
Sotashe, Thozama
Toffar, Taliah

ADVANCED DIPLOMA IN COSMETIC FORMULATION SCIENCE

Barrett, Josephine (with distinction)
Danisa, Gugulethu Nokukhanya
Haripershad, Pooja
Mutshekwa, Khano
Serobatse, Katlego (with distinction)

POSTGRADUATE DIPLOMA IN ADDICTIONS CARE

Britz, Marthinus Cornelius (with distinction)
Brown, Candice Lesley
Hayes, Alexander John
Heesom-Green, Aran Grace
Mcdonald, Nicole Charlotte (with distinction)
Ndwandwa, Esona-Sethu

POSTGRADUATE DIPLOMA IN CLINICAL PAEDIATRIC CRITICAL CARE

Kasililika, Alinanuswe Gideon
Musonda, Hope Katai

POSTGRADUATE DIPLOMA IN CLINICAL PAEDIATRIC PHYSIOTHERAPY

Banda, Tendai Esther
Chimwala, Martha Chifundo
Manyanga, Frida

POSTGRADUATE DIPLOMA IN COMMUNITY AND GENERAL PAEDIATRICS

Davies, Genne Lynne
Fakudze, Nontobeko Ayanda
Kalonji, Bomboko Jules
Kuse, Asanda
Lupton-Smith, Gillian Ann
Parkin, Caroline Jeanne (with distinction)
Paulus, Rejoice Beauty
Quma, Nakisa Yoweri

POSTGRADUATE DIPLOMA IN DISABILITY STUDIES

Johannisen, Crystal Miche
Mahlungulu, Zimkitha
Makhudu, Pearl
Malatji, William Makete
Mufeba, Tendani Emanuel (with distinction)
Opoku, Richard Odomako
Radebe, Bongani Zacharia
Rangata, Monnye Refiloe
Seopa, Mmasechaba Justicia Francesca (with distinction)

POSTGRADUATE DIPLOMA IN EMERGENCY CARE

Abelson, Zubaida Beaunke
Chere, Paul
Coetzee, Abraham Jacobus
Du Plessis, Lindi
Goncalves De Oliveira, Paulo Dinarto
Hildebrand, Danielle
Jephta, Leoné Lauran
Kadwa, Zakir Ahmed
Kaekae, Lebogang Quintine
Kasongo, Jean Paul Khazhengeleh
Klein, Bradley
Makate, Welcome Ignatius
Marais, Louis Sean (with distinction)
Mathebula, Nzama Jeremia
Okoye, Chiamaka Chidiebere
Shangula, Fillipus Pendapala
Singer, Yehuda Leib (with distinction)
Taunton, Leigh Elizabeth
Thirion, Anya
Tshikala, Kanda Gloria
Van Niekerk, Susan (with distinction)
Visagie, Amy Ruth (with distinction)
Yala, Veron Veko

POSTGRADUATE DIPLOMA IN FAMILY MEDICINE

Ahmed, Jehan (with distinction)
Botha, Carolene
Brink, Christie
Geland, Nicole Smith
Kilimi, Kiakibor Jeanne
Madoda, Faith
Mponda, Nontokozo Ashleigh (with distinction)
Nsamba, Tresor Kantenga
Nzuzi, Mpaka
Reeve, Lyndon Tyler Scott (with distinction)
Salie, Yusha
Sharples, Anne-Marie Christina

POSTGRADUATE DIPLOMA IN HEALTH ECONOMICS

Bloem, Charmaine
Chirindo, Rutendo Edith
Erwee, Stephan
Esau, Rifqah
Galant, Nabeelah
Giyava, Charity Rutendo
Gloeck, Natasha Rachel (with distinction)
Harper, Francesca Ruth (with distinction)
Hunter, Jeanette Rebecca (with distinction)
Luthuli, Dennis Nkosinathi
Makhele, Letlhogonolo
Matonhodze, Alex
Modiba, Khumo Masilo
Mohamed, Nazeem
Mpangase, Bongeka
Mthimunye, Nonhlanhla
Munikwa, Nakai Belinda
Ngubane, Nokuthula Ntombikayise
Simelane, Hlobisile Nikiwe
Socenywa, Vuyolwethu Nakhane
Tjaronda, Albert
Tlaka, Mosale Tlodupjane (with distinction)
Zvarevashe, Wilfred

POSTGRADUATE DIPLOMA IN HEALTH LEADERSHIP

Abrahams, Theodore William John
Damane, Mzwandile
Franken, Mitzi (with distinction)
Fredericks-Smuts, Soraya (with distinction)
Jacobs, Nadine Sharlene (with distinction)
Lawrence, Charlene Ann (with distinction)
Lesch, Maret
Monokoane, Molefi
Nankoo, Lewellyn Sebastian
Nemukula, Bono Musundwa
Potgieter, Francois Retief (with distinction)
Seitisho, Jacob Molosiwa
Sonnie, Waheeda
Swart, Evan Angelo (with distinction)
Taolo, Kagisho Martin
Tlhogane, Elizabeth Madipuo
Vallie, Razia (with distinction)
Van Zyl, Rouxlene (with distinction)
Williams, Charles Jonathan

POSTGRADUATE DIPLOMA IN HEALTH PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION

Boreham, Emma
Hendricks, Fayyaad
Holdman, Rashiqua (with distinction)
King, Jonathan Chan
Naicker, Bavani
Ncamile, Patricia Nomonde
Neshuku-Nampala, Saara Ndinelago
Padia Naidoo, Kamila
Profitt, Luke Brian
Rikhotso, Tinyiko Nelly
Salie, Haniem (with distinction)
Smith, Lara
Visser, Morne
Wessels, Tinamarie

POSTGRADUATE DIPLOMA IN HEALTHCARE TECHNOLOGY MANAGEMENT

Mxatule, Sikholiwe

POSTGRADUATE DIPLOMA IN INTERDISCIPLINARY PAIN MANAGEMENT

Basson, Dion (with distinction)
Blaylock, Heather Anne
Cloete, Margot
Essop, Raeesa
Gilday, Kyle Christopher
Grunewald, Rosalin
Mentz, Dewan (with distinction)
Nixon, Brian Jeffrey Ian
Nixon, Claudia Ilse
Saul-Macala, Yonela
Sayed, Sumaya
Steyn, Willem-Johan (with distinction)
Swart, Andries Petrus (with distinction)

POSTGRADUATE DIPLOMA IN OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH

Butler, Mpilonhle Felicia
Cassels, Marco (with distinction)
David, Helena Mwapiti
Dibakwane, Lesibe Portia
Groenewald, Jana (with distinction)
Hira, Prenil (with distinction)
Katse, Edwin Keorapetse
Kgotleng, Thabang
Macauley, Jonathan (with distinction)
Matoetoe, Masebina Anicia (with distinction)
Muila, Khuliso
Ng'oma, Veronica Vanessaezynote
Ntshalintshali, Senzo Owen
Oosthuizen, Cornelis Uys (with distinction)
O'Reilly, Matthew Jarrid (with distinction)
Owolabi, Sunday Olusola
Parker, Masood Ahmed (with distinction)
Samuel, Rodell
Sitsila, Thembie
Taylor, Erin Eliza (with distinction)
Terblanche, Joandi (with distinction)
Victor, Thuto Godfrey
Zuze, Tendai Bernard (with distinction)

POSTGRADUATE DIPLOMA IN PALLIATIVE MEDICINE

Chamboko, Pamela Rudo (with distinction)
Chipeio, Melody Lyn
Craucamp, Elizabeth Adriana (with distinction)
De Vos, Tania (with distinction)
Fray, Gareth Adam
Goosen, Petrus Johannes (with distinction)
Greeff, Hilda
Hayward, Lioba (with distinction)
Henderson, Hester-Louise (with distinction)
Hendricks, Lesley Jill (with distinction)
Herold, Julie Ann
Khangale, Thambatshira Chrilsinas
Kock, Celeste (with distinction)
Lary, Lindsay (with distinction)
Lourens, Maria Magdalena
Magwaba, Thanyani
Mangolele, Tinyiko Charles
Masebe, Maitumelo (with distinction)
Mbadi, Carol Noxolo
Mohamed, Zainab
Mohlala, Thakgalo Thabitha
Mooki, Emmie Tryphina
Mukhinindi, Rihangwele
Nel, Amy (with distinction)
Ngwenya, Mita Wendy
Ogunjiofor, Samantha Adaobi
Pickard, Tricia Lyn (with distinction)
Rousseau, Annia
Seitshiro, Sentebaleng Elizabeth
Taylor, Glenda
Thom, Heidi
Turner, Roseanne Elizabeth
Vandenberg, Lesley Robyn (with distinction)
Van Riel, Kim Melanie (with distinction)
Van Staden, Claire
Venter, Neline (with distinction)
Walubita, Emily

POSTGRADUATE DIPLOMA IN PESTICIDE RISK MANAGEMENT

Cele, Thabiso
Chiwade, Tonderai
Mayige, Christian Martine
Shangase, Phindile Precious
Tesema, Lensa Fetene
Thabethe, Silindile Nobuhle Nobuhle
Udoh, Gift Dick (with distinction)

POSTGRADUATE DIPLOMA IN PUBLIC MENTAL HEALTH

Fortuin, Bernadine
Magula, Luzuko
Nyoni, Ntombizodwa
Prinsloo, Tyla (with distinction)
Pule, Pule Winston

Shoombe, Sofia Ndeshipewa Kaunapawa
Sibonda, Azola

POSTGRADUATE DIPLOMA IN TB-HIV MANAGEMENT

Budaza, Aviwe
Buhlonyiwe, Lindelwa Zikhona
Dipudi, Ipeleng Pride
Govender, Reece Rekyle
Gumede, Siphesihle Nolwandle
Jones, Eileen Gwendolyn
Khoarai, Lerato Samantha
Liphoto, Lisebo Rebecca
Lubuzo, Alungile
Mahalngu, Busisiwe Joyce
Makamba, Aphiwe
Manaka, Koketso Moshito
Marogo, Fezeka
Masango, Promise Lebogang
Masombuka, Lethabo Onica
Maswanganyi, Tintswalo Daisy
Maziya, Bongimpilo Blessing
Mboyo, Mashala Clemence
Mlungwana, Andisiwe
Mnyaka, Bongeka
Moabelo, Moakola Lucky
Mogambery, Alcine Ruth
Msimango, Lwazi
Mthembu, Nomvelo
Mukekwa, Ndala Jeremy
Mukwevho, Pfunzo
Nemadzivhanani, Rabelani
Ngcobo, Khanyisile
Njanga, Betty Lerato
Nobela, Tiny Nyeleti
Ntiyane, Mzukisi Siphe
Ranta, Kylie Machelane
Songongo, Sinoxolo Pozisa Eunice
Tembe, Nonhlanhla
Thabethe, Busisiwe Innocentia
Tshetsha, Loyiso Dion
Tshibwabwa, Nkuna Junior
Vumindaba, Bubele
Zwelonke, Martha Dipolelo

DEGREE OF MASTER OF CHEMICALS RISK MANAGEMENT

Banda, Lesten Piyo
Chikurira, Alpha Tarusenga
Hlatsi, Nkatiseng Patricia
Kamau, Edward Njuguna
Moubouyi Baeta, Hance Rodrigue
Mwinyimkuu, Juma Hamisi
Novela, Sydney Khensani
Simfukwe, Bruce
Ssemugabo, Charles
Thelingoane, Mokhoabane Emmanuel
Utyasheva, Liya

DEGREE OF MASTER OF MEDICAL SCIENCE IN DIETETICS

Jordaan, Hanlie

DEGREE OF MASTER OF MEDICAL SCIENCE IN GENETIC COUNSELLING

Al Fori, Amel Saleh

DEGREE OF MASTER OF MEDICINE

Abrahams, Meliza
Ahlers, Petri
Al Nabulsi, Abdulilah Mohammed
Badenhorst, Jacobus Johannes
Basant Rai, Bhuvaneshlal
Begg, Sarfraz
Bertels Geddie, Laurie Sue
Botha, Peter William Adrian
Bowes, Lynelle Olivia
Buxton-Tetteh, Naa Akyere (with distinction in the dissertation)
Coraizin, Carin
Delport, Caroline Delene
Didi, Sariu Ali
Dumaresq, Helen Crichton
Du Toit, Mariette
Ebrahim, Sakeena
Engelbrecht, Lillian Lize
Erwee, Christie
Gazi, Sipokazi
Gcingca, Thando Anele
Giles, Daniel
Govender, Terron
Groenewald, Johann Abraham Christoffel
Heald, Andrew Gordon
Heynes, Alana Stacey
Itzikowitz, Raphaela
Kanyongo, Rusununguko (with distinction in the dissertation)
Kiriinya, Martin Muthinja (with distinction in the dissertation)
Kolade, Olumayowa Uwadiale
Mahlakametsa, Mpho
Mahomed, Mariam
Maimin, Dane Gary
Marais, Gert Johannes (with distinction in the dissertation)
Maritz, Francois Ignatius
Mawire, Obey
Mfune, Phinias Harris Katolora
Mfutila, Tsitukenina Ruffine
Mudaly, Vanessa (with distinction)
Mureithi, Linda Nyambura (with distinction in the dissertation)
Naicker, Janani
Naobeb, Juanita Blommetjie
Rozmiarek, Julius
Scislowski, Pawel
Seedat, Azhar
Sittmann, Johann Christian
Smith, Damian Peter
Swartz, Michelle Catherine
Van Der Westhuyzen, Mene (with distinction in the dissertation)
Verfuss, Frances
Vlok, Neville
Wegner, Brett Neil
Wessels, Raisa Jana
Wills, Nicola Kimberley

DEGREE OF MASTER OF PHILOSOPHY

Allie, Shaheema
Bosch, Jason Ryan
Dharamdev, Kisharia
Hartley, Felicity Anne (with distinction)
Leggett, Céleste Esther
Mokgotho, Mahlatse Prudence (with distinction in the dissertation)
Mokoena, Motshidisi (with distinction in the dissertation)
Munarini, Murendwa Success (with distinction in the dissertation)

DEGREE OF MASTER OF PHILOSOPHY IN BIOKINETICS

Mpaka, Lindiwe

DEGREE OF MASTER OF PHILOSOPHY IN CLINICAL PHARMACOLOGY

Ndzamba, Bonginkosi S'fiso (with distinction in the dissertation)

DEGREE OF MASTER OF PHILOSOPHY IN EMERGENCY MEDICINE

Ambunda, Paulus
Buchan, Kirstine

Deka, Prince (with distinction in the dissertation)
Louw, Candice Lauren
Van Schalkwyk, Riekert Dewald

DEGREE OF MASTER OF PHILOSOPHY IN GYNAECOLOGICAL ONCOLOGY

Ghunney, Ama Kaki

DEGREE OF MASTER OF PHILOSOPHY IN INTELLECTUAL DISABILITY

Poswa, Nathi

DEGREE OF MASTER OF PHILOSOPHY IN NEONATOLOGY

Dhlomo, Nompumelelo Nosipho (with distinction in the dissertation)
Manu, Sally Owusua
Mpisane-Jama, Fefekazi (with distinction in the dissertation)
Naburi, Helga Elineema

DEGREE OF MASTER OF PHILOSOPHY IN PAEDIATRIC PULMONOLOGY

Eze, Joy Nkiru
Wordui, Seyram Michelline

DEGREE OF MASTER OF PHILOSOPHY IN PALLIATIVE CARE

Matsiliza, Nosisa Crenelia (with distinction)

DEGREE OF MASTER OF PHILOSOPHY IN PULMONOLOGY

Emhemed, Mohamed Omar El Mehdi

DEGREE OF MASTER OF PHILOSOPHY IN REPRODUCTIVE MEDICINE

Maro, Eusebious William

DEGREE OF MASTER OF PHILOSOPHY IN RHEUMATOLOGY

Didi, Sariu Ali

DEGREE OF MASTER OF PHILOSOPHY IN SPORT AND EXERCISE MEDICINE

Dlamini, Njabulo Knowledge

DEGREE OF MASTER OF PHILOSOPHY IN SURGICAL GASTROENTEROLOGY

Ziaei, Yalda

DEGREE OF MASTER OF PUBLIC HEALTH

Alberts, Kriste Nicole
Allie, Tasneem
Bheemraj, Kalisha (with distinction)
Bodzo, Panashe Michelle Paidamoyo
Chiwawa, Tinotenda Gerald Geoffrey (with distinction in the dissertation)
Cossa, Neide Janisse
De Kock, Carmen Abriette
Dlamini, Funwako Bakhile (with distinction in the coursework component)
Hlatshwayo, Lerato Lehlohonolo (with distinction in the dissertation)
Louw, Gail Erika
Lubinda, Elizabeth
Mjwana, Noluthando Maureen
Mlunga, Hilkka Eeno - Dilys (with distinction in the coursework component)
Morar, Zeena
Mxoli, Nonkqubela
Ntuli, Musa Christian
Rashid, Zahra Zameer (with distinction)
Tintinger, Susanet Elslinde (with distinction)
Tshipetane, Anza
van Rensburg, Caitlin Margot (with distinction)
Vermeulen, Marcia Christine

DEGREE OF MASTER OF SCIENCE IN AUDIOLOGY

Nefolovhodwe, Thendo Faith
van Stelten, Carla

DEGREE OF MASTER OF SCIENCE IN BIOMEDICAL ENGINEERING

Hume, Cameron Wayne (with distinction)
Magubane, Ntokozo

DEGREE OF MASTER OF SCIENCE IN EPIDEMIOLOGY AND BIOSTATISTICS

Moeletsi, Kgotlaganyo (with distinction)

DEGREE OF MASTER OF SCIENCE IN EXERCISE AND SPORTS PHYSIOTHERAPY

Kruger, Viljee Cornelis
Muula, Thumbe Asaph Lodgers Peter

DEGREE OF MASTER OF SCIENCE IN MEDICINE

Emeran, Aminah (with distinction)
Fowdar, Anjani (with distinction)
Hurree, Jennah Nivashni (with distinction)
Miller, Tara Kathleen (with distinction)
Mohamed, Alaa Ibrahim Abdelhafeez
Mokaila, Dipolelo Mosebjadi
Mollentze, Emmerentia Esmarie (with distinction)
Morris, Kate Ella Sorour (with distinction)
Oyibo, Ugbede Emmanuel
Savahl, Naqsha
Tavakoli Foroushani, Fatemeh
Watson, Trischke (with distinction)
Whitehouse, Alexandra Catherine
Zolo Ossou, Andre Yvan (with distinction)

DEGREE OF MASTER OF SCIENCE IN OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY

Mabuza, Lozinyanga Mbali

DEGREE OF MASTER
OF SCIENCE IN
SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGY

Porter, Kirsten Gaye (with distinction)

DEGREE OF DOCTOR OF MEDICINE

Krige, Jacobus Edmund
Thesis Title: *An analysis of prognostic, endoscopic and transjugular intrahepatic portosystemic salvage shunting factors influencing rebleeding and death in portal hypertensive patients with life-threatening variceal bleeding*

Jacobus Krige has MBChB, MSc and PhD degrees from UCT. He is the previous head of Surgical Gastroenterology and Hepatopancreatobiliary Surgery at UCT and GSH, editor emeritus of the South African Journal of Surgery, past president of the South African Gastroenterology Society and Fellow of three international Surgical Colleges.

Jacobus Krige's thesis focuses on the analysis and solutions to the vexing clinical problem of cirrhotic patients who present with recalcitrant and life-threatening variceal bleeding unresponsive to conventional treatment. In six novel published clinical studies dealing with complex variceal bleeding in high-risk patients, new and original prognostic scoring systems, refined endoscopic techniques to control bleeding and the appropriate selection of candidates for life-saving radiological stent shunting have been developed which have advanced knowledge and have received international acclaim.

Supervisor: Professor EG Jonas (Surgery)
Co-supervisor: Emeritus Professor SJ Beningfield (Radiation Medicine)

DEGREE OF DOCTOR
OF PHILOSOPHY

Baros-Steyl, Seanantha Sean
Thesis Title: *PknG in mycobacterial pathogenesis: phosphoproteomic exploration of host interactions and therapeutic potential during macrophage infection*

Seanantha Baros-Steyl attained her BSc and BSc (Hons) degrees from Stellenbosch University. She commenced her MSc (Med) studies at UCT in 2019, which were upgraded to doctoral studies in 2021.

Seanantha Baros-Steyl's thesis explores the role of Protein Kinase G (PknG) in Mycobacterium tuberculosis's evasion of host immune defences. Through a series of phosphoproteomic analyses across different macrophage models, her research uncovers how PknG manipulates host cell processes, from cytoskeletal reorganisation to phagosome maturation, to ensure mycobacterial survival. Advanced mass spectrometry techniques were employed to identify candidate host targets of PknG and to evaluate the potential of PknG inhibitors as novel therapeutic avenues. Hence, this work not only deepens our understanding of the mycobacterial survival mechanisms but also paves the way for innovative host-directed therapies.

Supervisor: Professor JM Blackburn (Integrative Biomedical Sciences)
Co-supervisor: Assistant Professor NA Da Cruz Soares (Center for Applied and Translational Genomics, Mohammed Bin Rashid University of Medicine and Health Sciences)

Bellis, Claire
Thesis Title: *Chromomycin A5 targets the oncogenic TBX2 as a new strategy to treat breast cancer*

Claire Bellis holds a BSc in Biochemistry and Genetics and a BSc (Hons) degree in Medical Biochemistry from UCT. She began her MSc in Cell Biology in the Faculty of Health Sciences in 2019 and subsequently upgraded to a PhD in 2021.

Claire Bellis's research focuses on addressing the need for improved targeted breast cancer treatments. Her thesis focuses on the transcription factor protein TBX2 which is over-expressed in various breast cancer subtypes where it promotes cancer growth and drug resistance but has no known function in adult healthy tissues. Her study identifies chromomycin A5, or CA5, a compound derived from marine bacteria, as a potential TBX2 inhibitor. She shows that CA5 is highly effective in killing breast cancer cells by inducing DNA damage and promoting cancer cell death while sparing non-malignant cells. This she attributes to the degradation of TBX2 by CA5 and the inhibition of crucial cancer survival pathways. Finally, Claire shows that CA5 reduces breast cancer tumour size and is well-tolerated in mice. Her findings highlight chromomycin A5 as a promising candidate for treating TBX2-driven breast cancers and overcoming resistance to DNA-damaging drugs.

Supervisor: Professor S Prince (FHS: Health Sciences Research Directorate)

Benede, Ntombi Sindiswa Buhle
Thesis Title: *Investigating SARS-CoV-2 immune responses in children*

Ntombi Benede completed her BSc (Hons) and Master of Medical Sciences (MMedSc) qualifications in Medical Biochemistry at the University of KwaZulu-Natal. She began her full-time study towards her PhD in 2020.

Ntombi Benede's thesis focuses on adaptive immune responses against severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus-2 (SARS-CoV-2) in children (median age: 7-years). Her findings showed that SARS-CoV-2 seronegative children had SARS-CoV-2-specific T-cells, albeit with a monofunctional cytokine profile, which correlated with endemic human coronavirus (HCoV) antibodies. The study also showed that children had significantly reduced SARS-CoV-2-specific T-cell responses compared to adults, although these responses were maintained up to 1-year and retained cross-reactivity to Delta and Omicron variants. Lastly, her study showed that children with multisystem inflammatory syndrome (MIS-C) and non-MIS-C inflammatory conditions

displayed a skewed T-cell cytokine profile possibly due to sustained systemic inflammation and/or superantigen-like responses inducing non-specific T-cell activation. The overall findings from her study provide important relevant data for understanding immunity against SARS-CoV-2 in children compared to adults, provides insight into cross-reactivity which may contribute to less disease severity in children and provide protection against re-infections in unvaccinated children.

Supervisor: Dr RS Keeton (Pathology)
Co-supervisor: Professor WA Burgers (Pathology)

Bhengu, Phelele Bhengu
Thesis Title: *Behavioural and social drivers of Human Papillomavirus Vaccination in eThekwini District of KwaZulu-Natal Province, South Africa*

Phelele Bhengu earned an MSc in Public Health from Liverpool John Moores University in the United Kingdom. She worked in the South African Medical Research Council before coming to UCT to pursue her PhD.

Phelele Bhengu's thesis investigates the behavioural and societal factors that influence Human Papillomavirus (HPV) vaccination in the eThekwini District of KwaZulu-Natal, a region with HPV vaccination coverage as low as 40%. It looks into the barriers to HPV vaccine uptake, such as cultural views, misinformation, and socioeconomic factors. The study employs a mixed-methods approach, combining quantitative surveys and qualitative interviews, to identify important influences on HPV vaccination decisions among healthcare workers and caregivers of children aged 9 to 14. Understanding these determinants will help inform targeted actions and policies to boost immunization coverage in the eThekwini District and elsewhere.

Supervisor: Professor M Shey (Medicine)
Co-supervisors: Prof CS Wiysonge (Medicine, University of Cape Town; World Health Organization Regional Office for Africa, Congo; Centre for Evidence-based Health Care Department of Global Health, Stellenbosch University; Cochrane South Africa, South African Medical Research Council); Dr D Ndwandwe (Cochrane South Africa, South African Medical Research Council)

Buthelezi, Ntandoyenkosi Nokuthula
Thesis Title: *Evaluating the impact of ultraviolet light on chemical and mechanical properties of human scalp hair through controlled and natural experiments*

Ntandoyenkosi Buthelezi earned a BSc and BSc (Hons) in Hydrology from the University of Zululand and a collaborative Master of Science (MSc) in Biochemistry with the SAMRC. In 2020, she commenced PhD studies at the Hair and Skin Research Laboratory at UCT.

Ntandoyenkosi Buthelezi's thesis focuses on the intricate interplay between environmental factors, particularly Ultraviolet (UV) radiation from sunlight and biological systems, specifically human scalp hair. Given its significance as a substrate in various fields such as cosmetics, forensics, medicine, and material science, understanding the impact of UV radiation on hair health is important. Through a combination of chemical and mechanical techniques, her study scrutinizes the effects of in-house UV radiation versus natural sunlight on hair properties. UVB exposure resulted in more significant changes in a time-dependent manner, with low-curled fibres having a threshold effect beyond which no further changes were observed. This knowledge not only aids hair scientist in navigating population-specific hair analysis, but also provides valuable insights for hair care development industry. Her research contributes to our understanding of environmental influences on biological materials, paving the way for informed strategies in hair care and related scientific disciplines.

Supervisor: Associate Professor M Ngoepe (Mechanical Engineering)
Co-supervisors: Professor N Khumalo (Medicine); Dr O Oputu (Medicine)

Butters, Claire Mary
Thesis Title: *Regulation of HPV infection and cervical cancer development following a helminth infection*

Claire Butters completed her BSc and BSc (Hons) qualifications at UCT, and began full-time study towards her master's in 2019, upgrading her degree to a PhD in 2022.

Claire Butters' thesis reports the reduction in HPV infection following the exposure to or infection with soil-transmitted helminths. She went on to investigate the mechanisms responsible for this protection including the contribution of immune cell populations and cell surface receptors both in cell culture and in mouse models. Finally, she further explored the effect of soil-transmitted helminth infection on the growth and phenotype of cervical cancer by developing a novel mouse-based tumour model.

Supervisor: Professor W Horsnell (Pathology)
Co-supervisors: Dr K-A Smith (Pathology); Associate Professor G Schäfer (Integrative Biomedical Sciences)

Campbell, Megan Loraine
Thesis Title: *The genetic relationship between the corpus callosum, bipolar disorder and alcohol use*

Megan Campbell completed her BSc, BSc (Hons) and MSc qualifications at UCT before commencing her full-time PhD studies in 2021.

Megan Campbell's thesis focuses on the genetic architecture of the corpus callosum and its implications for neuropsychiatric phenotypes. Employing novel statistical methods, she successfully segmented the corpus callosum and examined its genetic contribution to various psychiatric and substance use traits within a large-scale population cohort. Importantly, this pioneering investigation represents the first of its kind to delve into the corpus callosum in such depth. The insights gained from this study will enhance

the understanding and interpretation of imaging studies within the realm of psychiatric disorders.

Supervisor: Professor D Stein (Psychiatry and Mental Health)
Co-supervisors: Dr S Dalvie (Pathology); Dr J Rokicki (Centre of Research and Education in Forensic Psychiatry, Oslo University Hospital)

Cermak, Radomir
Thesis Title: *The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on EMS practitioners in the Western Cape: strategies to enhance wellness*

Radomir Cermak holds a Bachelor's degree in Emergency Medical Care and a Master's Degree in Health Sciences. In 2018, he enrolled in the PhD programme in Emergency Medicine at UCT. He is employed at the Western Cape Government College of Emergency Care as a Deputy Principal.

Radomir Cermak's thesis explores the experiences of emergency medical services (EMS) practitioners in the Western Cape during their transition through the COVID-19 pandemic and its impact on EMS practitioner's wellness. He interviewed EMS practitioners and managers at a local EMS base. The research findings revealed multidimensional challenges and psycho-social strain on EMS practitioners during the pandemic. The data provided input for wellness enhancing interventions, which guided the development of wellness enhancing framework within the context of COVID-19 pandemic and other health crises of a similar nature. The framework's four main contexts were "family", "work", "community" and "spirituality". The proposed framework may provide basis for further implementation of specific psycho-social interventions within emergency medical services work environment and inform policy development in this regard.

Supervisor: Dr C Cunningham (Surgery)
Co-supervisor: Professor R Bhagwan (Community Health Studies, Durban University of Technology)

De Beer, Shani Tamlyn
Thesis Title: *Characteristics of and factors associated with infectious disease hospital admissions in children by HIV-exposure status in an era of high coverage of prevention of vertical HIV transmission in the Western Cape Province of South Africa*

Shani de Beer completed her BSc, BSc (Hons) and MPH qualifications at the UCT. She began full-time study towards her PhD degree as part of a cotutelle programme between UCT and University of Bristol in 2020.

Shani de Beer's thesis investigates infection-related hospitalisations and healthcare utilisation, by HIV-exposure status and maternal engagement in antiretroviral therapy (ART), among children in the Western Cape. She uses routine healthcare data from the Western Cape Provincial Health Data Centre from 2008-2021. Firstly, she describes the temporal changes in HIV-related characteristics among children with an infection-related hospitalisation age ≤3 years, highlighting the increase in the proportion of admitted children exposed to maternal HIV and ART from conception. Thereafter, she demonstrates that HIV exposed and uninfected (HEU) children have higher rates of infection-related hospitalisations in the first year of life, irrespective of maternal ART history, compared to children HIV unexposed and uninfected (HUU). Finally, better well-child visit coverage among children HEU was strongly associated with maternal HIV vertical transmission prevention engagement. She concludes that the introduction of multi-faceted interventions is required to ensure that both children HEU and HUU survive and thrive.

Supervisors: Professor M-A Davies (Public Health and Family Medicine); Associate Professor Hayley Jones (University of Bristol)
Co-supervisors: Professor B Eley (Paediatrics and Child Health); Dr S Ingle (University of Bristol), Associate Professor A Slogrove (Stellenbosch University)

Dlamini, Lenye Sebenzile
Thesis Title: *Engineering nitrilases for enhanced thermostability*

Lenye Dlamini completed her undergraduate and master's degrees at the University of Pretoria and began full-time study towards her PhD at UCT in 2020.

Lenye Dlamini's thesis focuses on investigating the structural and chemical factors that contribute to enhancing the thermostability of a recombinant industrial nitrilase biocatalyst. This biocatalyst is useful in removing cyanide from wastewater and producing chemical compounds such as formic acid and ammonia in industries. To make the biocatalyst economically viable, thermal stability is crucial. This requires a fundamental understanding of the structural and chemical changes in the protein biocatalyst that confer resistance to thermal stress. Therefore, the thesis presents a computational screening of the amino acid sequence space of the nitrilase enzyme. This analysis, which was confirmed through experimental methods, identifies two additional sites for engineering enzyme thermostability and demonstrates a connection between conformational- and thermostability and increased oligomerisation of the enzyme. These findings will be useful in developing a recombinantly expressed industrial nitrilase biocatalyst.

Supervisor: Emeritus Professor T Sewell (Integrative Biomedical Sciences)
Co-supervisors: Dr J Woodward (Electron Microscope Unit); Professor E Sturrock (Integrative Biomedical Sciences)

Esmail, Aliasgar Sadaqali
Thesis Title: *Newer and novel sputum versus non-sputum-based tools for the diagnosis of active tuberculosis in different patient sub-populations*

Aliasgar Esmail is a Specialist Physician and a Pulmonologist at Groote Schuur Hospital. He is also a Principal Investigator on numerous clinical trials at the UCT Lung Institute. Dr Esmail received the prestigious EDCTP (European Union) career development award which facilitated the completion of this PhD.

Tuberculosis (TB) presents as a spectrum of disease ranging from asymptomatic infection with low burden disease on one end, to more severe hospitalised patients on the other. Additionally, patients may also have TB in organs other than the lung (extra-pulmonary TB). This heterogeneity generates various sub-populations within TB with differential and sub-optimal performance of frontline TB diagnostic tests. Aliasgar Esmail's thesis describes novel approaches to improve the diagnosis of TB in these important sub-populations including in hospitalised and HIV-infected patients who have an exceptionally high mortality (within days), and in community-based patients who contribute to a large proportion of the global TB transmission. The diagnosis of TB in this group is particularly important for TB control strategies. Additionally, this thesis also validates a novel test immunodiagnostic test (IRISA-TB) developed by a UCT affiliated start-up for the diagnosis of extra-pulmonary TB (TB in the fluid around the heart and lungs).

Supervisor: Professor K Dheda (Medicine)

Geldenhuys, Alda Grethe
Thesis Title: *Development of the shoulder return to contact continuum in rugby: an assessment framework for traumatic anterior glenohumeral joint dislocations*

Alda Geldenhuys holds a BSc (Physiotherapy) and a MSc (Exercise and Sports Physiotherapy) from UCT. She commenced her PhD studies in 2020 and has practiced as a clinical physiotherapist for the duration of her studies. Alda Geldenhuys' thesis focuses on return to sport following traumatic anterior glenohumeral joint (GHJ) dislocations in rugby players. She starts by investigating multidisciplinary approaches to return to sport following injury in rugby players. She then focuses on return to the contact phase of rugby in players who suffered traumatic anterior GHJ dislocations. Her research achieves expert consensus for a comprehensive range of criteria and time frames for return to contact in these injured players. She further develops and pilots a novel assessment framework, the Shoulder Return to Contact Continuum in Rugby, to evaluate players' readiness to return to contact and guide multidisciplinary team decisions. The novel assessment framework is player-centred and highlights the importance of players' psychological readiness in return to contact decisions. The assessment framework is a valuable resource for sports clinicians and facilitates rugby players' safe return to contact following anterior GHJ dislocations.

Supervisor: Associate Professor T Burgess (Health and Rehabilitation Sciences; Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences, Stellenbosch University)
Co-supervisors: Dr S Hendricks (Human Biology, Institute for Sport Physical Activity and Leisure, Leeds Beckett University); Professor S Roche (Surgery)

Haworth, Leanne Claire
Thesis Title: *ASTM assessment of a novel shoulder prosthetic design: measurement of glenoid edge motion in three degrees of freedom*

Leanne Haworth completed her BEng and MSc Eng at the University of Stellenbosch. After leaving academia for a few years to work in industry, she returned to start her PhD studies at UCT in 2016. Leanne Haworth's thesis develops a new method of measuring the complex edge motion of the glenoid component of a shoulder prosthesis. A comparative study was performed using a commercial and a novel glenoid design, in which the edge motions were measured. The results were used to evaluate the novel glenoid design's survivability, as well as to compare the edge motion trends to those in the literature. It was found that the novel glenoid did not outperform the commercial one, but the investigation highlighted that the established testing methods may not be accurately assessing this new design. These tests assume unbalanced edge loading is the primary cause of glenoid failure. This study highlighted that it is not unbalanced loading, but time-dependent material deformations that have a profound effect on glenoid edge motions. This finding opens a new paradigm on glenoid failure modes and urges the scientific community to investigate further.

Supervisor: Professor S Sivarasu (Human Biology)
Co-supervisors: Professor S Roche (Surgery); Associate Professor B Borotikar (Human Biology)

Hendricks, Marc Gerald
Thesis Title: *Malignant extracranial germ cell tumours, teratomas and sex cord stromal tumours in children*

Marc Hendricks completed his MBChB at UCT in 1996. He qualified as a paediatrician in 2005 and as a paediatric oncologist in 2007. He has worked as a consultant paediatric oncologist at Red Cross War Memorial Children's Hospital since 2008. He started his full-time doctoral studies in 2017. Marc Hendrick's thesis involved the development and implementation of a national treatment guideline for the management of children with benign and malignant extracranial germ cell and sex cord stromal tumours. His thesis began with a historical evaluation of South African children with these diagnoses over a 25-year period. In it he exposes the ongoing relationship between socio-economic status and 5-year overall survival, in that children from low-income households were shown to have a significantly poorer cancer survival compared to those from high-income households (46.3% vs. 85.3%). Using the newly developed national guideline, informed by historical data, the prospective study, which enrolled children across South Africa, demonstrated an improved 3-year overall survival (OS) for children with limited stage (I-III) disease. It has informed the development of new guidelines for children with stage 4 disease and will form the basis of a new setting-appropriate treatment guideline for Africa.

Supervisor: Professor KA Donald (Paediatrics and Child Health)
Co-supervisors: Professor M Kruger (Paediatrics and Child Health, Stellenbosch University); Professor A Lindsay Frazier (Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, Harvard University)

Irlam, James Hamilton
Thesis Title: *Education for sustainable healthcare: Opportunities and barriers in undergraduate health professions education in South Africa*

James Irlam completed his BSc, BSc (Med)(Hons), MPhil (Epidemiology) and MSc (Climate Change and Development) qualifications at UCT, and began his PhD in 2021. He has worked in the UCT Faculty of Health Sciences (FHS) since 1996 and is currently with the Department of Family, Community and Emergency Care.

Education for sustainable healthcare (ESH) is a rapidly growing field in health professions education (HPE) focused on the interdependence of human health and planetary ecosystems and making healthcare systems more environmentally sustainable. James Irlam's thesis focuses on a mixed methods study of educators in South African undergraduate HPE consisted of a national survey, a Delphi panel, and a case study of ESH in the UCT FHS. Strong leadership, educator capacity development, multidisciplinary collaboration, and student involvement are needed to achieve curricular integration of ESH against prevalent national barriers of overloaded and "siloed" curricula, low educational capacity, and resource constraints. Current curriculum transformation in the FHS, and initiatives towards increased social and environmental accountability, provide promising opportunities for ESH at UCT. He proposes an integrated ESH curricular development framework within a social accountability model for HPE institutions, which adds to evidence for ESH from low- and middle-income countries.

Supervisor: Professor H-A Rother (Public Health and Family Medicine)
Co-supervisor: Professor SJY Reid (Family, Community and Emergency Care)

Jacob, Nisha Anne Sunny
Thesis Title: *Feasibility, validity and utility of HIV testing data as key components of HIV case-based surveillance*

Nisha Jacob completed her MBChB and M.Med (Public Health Medicine) qualifications at UCT and attained her FCPHM (SA) from the Colleges of Medicine South Africa in 2016. She began study towards her PhD in 2019.

Nisha Jacob's thesis focuses on the validity of HIV case ascertainment within a routine health information exchange, the feasibility of embedding digitised HIV testing data into routine systems and the utility of these routine data for enhanced case-based surveillance (CBS). She demonstrates that linked individuated routine data may be reliably used for antenatal HIV prevalence and antiretroviral therapy coverage surveillance, providing more granular estimates, more efficiently than historically used data sources. She shows the complexity and value of enhancing CBS with HIV point-of-care testing data by quantifying HIV retesting and linkage to care. She further demonstrates the utility of CBS in understanding the impact of changing policy guidelines on vertical transmission of HIV. These findings contribute to strengthening local information systems for CBS using routine data, with less reliance on costly, disruptive parallel processes. This may allow timelier, evidence-based action to strengthen health system initiatives and improve health for all.

Supervisor: Professor A Boulle (Public Health and Family Medicine)
Co-supervisor: Associate Professor B Rice (Medicine and Population Health, University of Sheffield)

Kagoro, Frank Makundusi
Thesis Title: *Impactful maps and associated visualisations on antimalarial drug resistance for malaria programmes and policymakers*

Frank Kagoro graduated as a medical doctor in Tanzania and holds a postgraduate diploma in Healthcare Management in Tropical Countries from the Swiss Tropical and Public Health Institute, Switzerland and a Master of Science in International Health and Tropical Medicine from the University of Oxford, United Kingdom.

Drug resistance to key medicines for treating both uncomplicated and severe malaria is a major threat to malaria control and elimination efforts. Frank Kagoro's thesis is based on transdisciplinary research in Asia and South Africa that focuses on enhancing early warning systems for antimalarial drug resistance that aims to support malaria programmes and policymakers. He introduces innovative methodologies for creating user-friendly tools that aid in the detection, reporting, and response to antimalarial drug resistance. This showcases the application of co-design techniques to facilitate near-real-time monitoring of antimalarial drug resistance, emphasising key processes and challenges in implementing an early warning system in a pre-elimination scenario in South Africa. This research advances visual evidence summaries for policymakers and decision-makers tackling antimalarial drug resistance, and provides insights for establishing early warning systems, particularly in settings moving towards malaria elimination and / or threatened by antimalarial resistance.

Supervisor: Professor KI Barnes (Medicine)
Co-supervisor: Professor RJ Maude (Epidemiology, Centre for Tropical Medicine and Global Health, University of Oxford)

Kehoe, Kathleen
Thesis Title: *Burden and causes of ongoing paediatric infectious disease morbidity and mortality in the Western Cape Province of South Africa*

Kathleen Kehoe holds a BSc from Stellenbosch University and a BSc (Hons), MSc and MPH from UCT. She began her joint PhD program between UCT and the University of Bristol in January 2020. She has extensive work experience in HIV/TB programmes across South Africa.

Kathleen Kehoe's thesis focuses on the morbidity and mortality of lower respiratory tract infections

(LRTIs), diarrhoea, meningitis, and tuberculous meningitis in children under five years old in the Western Cape public sector. She analyses death causes using various data sources, finding that hospital systems accurately identified causes of in-hospital deaths, especially for LRTIs and diarrhoea. She also examines the impact of COVID-19 public health and social measures (PHSM) on LRTI and diarrhoea admissions. COVID-19 PHSM led to reduced admissions, likely due to a combination of improved hand hygiene, physical distancing and decreased healthcare usage due to mobility restrictions and fear of acquiring COVID-19 in health facilities. Lastly, she identifies risk factors for repeat infectious disease admissions noting that male children with lower birthweight, initial LRTI admission, longer initial stays, and children with HIV were more likely to be readmitted.

Supervisors: Professor M-A Davies (Public Health and Family Medicine); Dr T Redaniel (University of Bristol)
Co-supervisors: Professor B Eley (Paediatrics and Child Health); Dr H Jones (University of Bristol); Dr S Walter (University of Bristol)

Khobo, Isaac Lebogang
Thesis Title: *Exploring the relationship between multimodal magnetic resonance neuroimaging and cognitive outcomes in children: Applying machine learning algorithms to brain MRI features to predict cognitive scores and performance categories of children living with and without HIV*

Isaac Khobo completed his BSc (Eng) Mechatronics and MSc Biomedical Engineering at UCT and began full-time study towards his PhD in September 2020.

Isaac Khobo's thesis focuses on using structural, functional, and biochemical nature of the brain to predict future outcomes of attention, learning, language, and general intelligence of children from low-socioeconomic status backgrounds, many of which are disproportionately affected by HIV. He starts by conducting a systematic literature review on the links between cognitive deficits of young people with HIV and brain changes found by imaging studies. He then conducts a longitudinal imaging and cognitive testing study in children living with and without HIV. He finds that machine learning models applied to earlier brain measures and language outcomes can accurately predict whether the children will have low or high-performance outcomes in the future. These findings are useful in identifying at-risk children who may benefit the most from earlier targeted interventions.

Supervisor: Dr FC Robertson (Human Biology)
Co-supervisor: Professor EM Meintjes (Human Biology)

Kipkoech, Kennedy
Thesis Title: *Informing the treatment and prevention response for HIV among people who inject drugs: a case study of South Africa*

Kennedy Kipkoech completed his Bachelor of Science qualification at Maseno University, Kenya, in 2008 and Master of Science qualification at Moi University, Kenya, in 2011 and began full-time study towards a cotutelle (dual) PhD at the University of Cape Town, South Africa and University of Bristol, United Kingdom in 2020.

Kennedy Kipkoech's thesis investigates the evolving illicit drug use in South Africa and considers how drug use and injecting drug use is associated with worse health and HIV outcomes, and what is needed to mitigate these issues among people who inject drugs (PWID) in South Africa. He finds that South Africa has experienced substantial upsurge in illicit drug use, increasing 7-fold from 2002 to 2017, and that globally PWID living with HIV have worse levels of viral suppression compared to other population groups. By developing a mathematical model of HIV among people who inject drugs in South Africa for Pretoria, and calibrating the model to local data, he shows that future scale-up of HIV treatment and harm reduction interventions, and providing housing for homeless PWID, could considerably reduce new HIV infections by 2030.

Supervisors: Associate Professor LF Johnson (Public Health and Family Medicine); Professor P Vickerman (Population Health Sciences, Bristol Medical School and the NIHR Health Protection Research Unit in Behavioural Science and Evaluation, University of Bristol)
Co-supervisors: Dr J Stone (Population Health Sciences, Bristol Medical School, University of Bristol); Dr H Fraser (Population Health Sciences, Bristol Medical School and the NIHR Health Protection Research Unit in Behavioural Science and Evaluation, University of Bristol); Dr A Scheibe (TB HIV Care, Cape Town and Family Medicine, University of Pretoria)

Krause, Stephanie Rene
Thesis Title: *An evaluation of implementing integrated palliative care at an academic teaching hospital*

Stephanie Krause completed her MBChB and M.FamMed at the University of the Free State and her M.Phil in Palliative Medicine at UCT. She started her part-time studies towards her PhD in 2019.

Stephanie Krause's thesis evaluates and describes the efficacy of three distinct integration strategies for Palliative Care (PC) within the context of South African Academic Teaching Hospitals, focusing on Groote Schuur Hospital. The three strategies under scrutiny encompass 1) the establishment of a specialised PC service, 2) an educational initiative for training of oncology registrars in PC, and 3) the implementation of protocol adjustments as a quality improvement process for managing patients with pancreatic cancer. To achieve a comprehensive understanding of the integration of PC, she evaluates the broader context of the academic teaching hospital regarding PC integration. This analytical approach facilitates an understanding of the mechanisms underlying the effectiveness of integration strategies, thereby allowing for the refinement of these strategies. The identification of key mechanisms involved in the integration of PC contributes to the development of

transferable models applicable to other academic teaching hospitals, thereby enhancing access to PC services.

Supervisor: Emeritus Associate Professor E Gwyther (Public Health and Family Medicine)
Co-supervisor: Associate Professor J Olivier (Public Health and Family Medicine)

Lambarey, Humaira
Thesis Title: *The reactivation of Kaposi's Sarcoma-associated Herpesvirus (KSHV) by SARS-CoV-2 in non-hospitalised HIV-infected patients*

Humaira Lambarey completed her BSc and BSc(Hons) qualifications at UCT, and graduated with an MSc in Molecular and Cell Biology at UCT in 2017. From 2021 to 2024 she studied full-time towards her PhD.

Humaira Lambarey's thesis focuses on the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on reactivation of latent oncogenic herpesviruses, specifically Kaposi's Sarcoma-associated Herpesvirus (KSHV), in non-hospitalised HIV-infected adult patients who were highly exposed to SARS-CoV-2 throughout the pandemic in South Africa. She demonstrates that COVID-19 unvaccinated patients had a higher risk of KSHV reactivation when (repeatedly) infected with SARS-CoV-2. As lytic reactivation of KSHV may have long-term consequences, particularly in the context of patients with impaired immune functions, identifying and monitoring patients at risk for KSHV reactivation, prevention of KSHV-associated pathologies and appropriate treatment strategies are therefore important in the post-pandemic era.

Supervisor: Associate Professor G Schäfer (Integrative Biomedical Sciences)
Co-supervisor: Dr M Blumenthal (Integrative Biomedical Sciences)

Latib, Zahra
Thesis Title: *Programmed cell death-ligand 1 (PD-L1) expression in HIV-associated Diffuse Large B-cell Lymphoma – role and regulation*

Zahra Latib completed her BSc, BSc(Hons) and MSc in Biotechnology at the University of the Western Cape, and in 2020, she began her PhD at UCT.

Zahra Latib's thesis focuses on investigating the programmed death-ligand 1 (PD-L1), an immunoregulatory molecule involved in promoting tumour immune-escape, in HIV-associated Diffuse Large B-cell Lymphoma. The research employed a combination of approaches, using patient samples and cell (DLBCL) models. The study demonstrated that PD-L1 expression is increased in the blood and tumour tissues of HIV-positive DLBCL patients, compared to HIV- uninfected DLBCL patients, indicating enhanced immune-escape of tumour cells in DLBCL patients infected with the virus. Using a DLBCL cell model, she demonstrated that tumour cells themselves are not high expressors of PD-L1, in the presence of HIV, which brings attention to the importance of in vivo biological immunoregulatory milieux in mediating biological and physiological responses. These findings provide novel and important insights into the regulation of PD-L1 in DLBCL within the context of HIV infection, revealing avenues for further research towards the development of targeted therapies for HIV-associated DLBCL.

Supervisor: Associate Professor S Mowla (Pathology)
Co-supervisors: Associate Professor E Verburgh (Medicine); Dr D Chetty (Pathology)

Mafu, Trevor Shepherd
Thesis Title: *Exploring the association between gene sequence polymorphisms within the angiogenesis and extracellular matrix regulatory pathways and shoulder pain and disability following breast cancer treatment*

Trevor Mafu holds a Bachelor of Science Honours degree in Applied Biology and Biochemistry from the National University of Science and Technology, Zimbabwe (2014). In 2016, he joined UCT and commenced his Master's degree in the Division of Physiological Sciences. In 2019, he upgraded his MSc to a PhD.

Trevor Mafu's thesis focuses on chronic shoulder pain and disability among South African breast cancer survivors (BCS), aiming to identify risk modulating genetic factors within the angiogenesis and extracellular matrix (ECM) regulatory pathways. Using a cross-sectional cohort of 343 South African breast cancer survivors, he investigated independent and interactive associations between 25 polymorphisms within 14 candidate genes and shoulder pain and/or disability symptoms. His findings highlight significant complex gene-gene interactions among genes within the angiogenesis-related and ECM regulatory pathways modulating risk of shoulder pain and disability following breast cancer treatment. Overall, the study adds to the growing body of evidence of genetic factors modulating risk of shoulder complex morbidity, implicating key pathways that have been shown to be important in non-cancer-related soft tissue conditions of the shoulder.

Supervisor: Associate Professor D Shamley (Human Biology)
Co-supervisor: Professor AV September (Human Biology)

Martin, Donna-Lee Pamela
Thesis Title: I*nvestigation into implementing a massively parallel sequencing workflow for forensic human identification in South Africa*

Donna-Lee Martin completed a BSc at Stellenbosch University, a BSc (Hons) in Forensic Genetics at the University of Free State and an MPhil in Biomedical Forensic Science at UCT. She commenced her PhD in Forensic Genetics in 2021.

Donna-Lee Martin's thesis addresses the challenges of identifying unknown human remains in South Africa using an advanced DNA analysis technique known as massively parallel sequencing. Donna-Lee Martin systematically optimised the DNA workflow to facilitate the generation

of large-scale population genetic data required for the statistical interpretation of DNA evidence in a court of law. She subsequently used this optimised workflow to generate the first forensically relevant sequence data for South African individuals, revealing rich genetic variation. To facilitate implementation of this workflow in forensic casework, she carried out internal validation experiments and applied the validated workflow to a forensic cold case to generate new investigative leads. The findings and outcomes of her thesis provide valuable insights and recommendations for implementing advanced sequencing technologies in forensic science, particularly in developing regions.

Supervisor: Associate Professor LJ Royle (Pathology)

Mbangiwa, Tshepiso
Thesis Title: *Development of a novel real-time polymerase chain reaction (qPCR) assay for detecting and quantifying cryptococcosis in HIV-positive patients with meningoencephalitis in sub-Saharan Africa*

Tshepiso Mbangiwa completed her BSc in Biological Sciences in 2014 and her MPhil in Medical Sciences in 2019 at the University of Botswana. She started her PhD studies in 2019 as a split site student in the Department of Pathology, UCT and the Institut Pasteur, Paris, France.

Tshepiso Mbangiwa's thesis developed a qPCR molecular diagnostic tool for the detection and quantification of HIV- associated cryptococcosis and cryptococcal meningitis (CM). These assays showed great correlation and coherence with the current gold standard of cryptococcal culture (QCC) used in clinical settings for quantification and monitoring of CM worldwide. The thesis also added to the knowledge of limited data on existing serotypes in Botswana and Malawi with a predominance of serotype A (*C. neoformans*) and slight serotype B/C (*C. gattii*). The assays also detected disseminated CM infection in the blood indicative of severe disease as patients with detectable CM were likely to die between two and ten weeks after antifungal therapy was initiated. This thesis proposes the future use of these new assays for the quantification and monitoring of cryptococcal fungal load to replace culture and significantly decrease the time to diagnosis.

Supervisor: Associate Professor JC Hoving (Pathology)
Co-supervisors: Professor A Alanio (Molecular Mycology Unit, Institut Pasteur); Dr R Dangarembizi (Human Biology)

Mc Culloch, Mignon Irene
Thesis Title: *Paediatric acute kidney injury management in an African setting*

Mignon McCulloch completed her MBBCh at the University of the Witwatersrand in 1989, and her specialist paediatric training in 1998. She completed her PhD while working fulltime as a Paediatric Nephrologist.

Mignon McCulloch's thesis responds to the growing public health concern of kidney disease in children. The thesis discusses forms of kidney replacement therapy and specifically focuses on the Cape Town experience of Acute Peritoneal Dialysis for children in acute kidney failure (AKI). This form of dialysis does not rely on complex technology and may be made accessible to children in low resource settings. The thesis reviews the experience of training 38 children's kidney specialists from across Africa (all of whom returned to their home institutions as local leaders). Techniques were developed by which kidney support can be provided for children with limited medical resources. Although the thesis focused within Africa, much of this work can be applied anywhere, thereby giving children the opportunity of dialysis when needed.

Supervisors: Emeritus Professor A Argent (Paediatrics and Child Health)
Co-supervisors: Professor B Morrow (Paediatrics and Child Health); Honorary Professor V Luyckx (Public and Global Health, University of Zurich)

Mcpherson, Deidré Estelle Kathleen
Thesis Title: *Enhanced Recovery After Trauma Surgery (ERATS): A randomised controlled trial*

Deidré McPherson is a General Surgeon and Trauma Surgery and Critical Care subspecialist, completing her Fellowship and subspecialist degrees in 2017 and 2020, respectively. She received the Discovery Subspecialty Award (2018/19), Academic Fellowship Award (2020/2021), SAMA PhD Scholarship (2019), UCT Research Start-Up Award (2021) and SAMRC Researcher Development Award (2022).

Deidré McPherson's thesis explores the impact of an Enhanced Recovery After Surgery (ERAS) programme on recovery after emergency abdominal surgery for trauma. Patients were randomised into two groups: one with the ERAS plan and another with standard practice guidelines. The data revealed significant advantages for the ERAS group with quicker return to oral intake, earlier removal of tubes and shorter hospital stays. This is the first study to provide evidence for successful implementation of ERAS protocols in penetrating abdominal trauma.

Supervisor: Professor A Nicol (Surgery)

Moyakhe, Lihle Bayavuya
Thesis Title: *Genetic and epigenetic associations with child development and mental health in a South African birth cohort*

Lihle Bayavuya Moyakhe holds a BSc (Biochemistry and Microbiology) and a BSc (Hons) (Microbiology) from Rhodes University, as well as an MSc (Med) in Medicine from UCT. She began full-time study towards her PhD in Psychiatry in 2020.

Lihle Moyakhe's thesis investigates potential genetic and epigenetic links with early-life development and mental health. Her work includes two systematic reviews examining associations between genetic risk scores and epigenetic age (EA) deviation, respectively; and developmental/mental health disorders in childhood/adolescence. Key findings

include significant associations between genetic risk for a number of mental health disorders, and adverse developmental/ mental health outcomes, and links between EA deviation and internalising behaviours. Informed by these findings, she utilises a multi-omics approach examining how genetic risk, EA deviation (at birth) and DNA methylation patterns may associate with these outcomes in children from the Drakenstein Child Health Study, a South African birth cohort. While no statistically significant associations were found, this novel work contributes to the understanding of the complex interplay between genes, environment, and child development and mental health. Ultimately, it may inform early interventions for at-risk children in understudied, resource-limited settings such as South Africa.

Supervisor: Associate Professor N Koen (Psychiatry and Mental Health)
Co-supervisors: Dr S Dalvie (Pathology); Professor DJ Stein (Psychiatry and Mental Health)

Mthembu, Nontobeko
Thesis Title: *In search of new immune mechanisms for severe asthma*

Nontobeko Mthembu completed her BMedScHons and MSc qualifications at the University of Cape Town and began full-time study towards her PhD in 2020.

Nontobeko Mthembu's thesis delineates the distinct inflammatory cellular profiles associated with age in the development of severe asthma, using a murine model to replicate airway inflammation observed in severe asthmatics. Her research reveals predominant eosinophilic inflammation in neonatal mice, contrasting with the primarily neutrophil-driven severe inflammation in adult mice. She further demonstrates corticosteroid insensitivity in adult mice characterised by pronounced neutrophilia. Her investigation extends to the molecular mechanisms underlying the diverse cellular responses and pathogenesis of steroid-resistant severe asthma, employing RNA sequencing. She identifies crucial genes, both novel and known, involved in severe asthma, highlighting *Cyp1a1*, a downstream target of Interleukin 4 induced 1 (IL-4i1), as a key player in airway inflammation in adult mice. This allowed her to further assess the impact of IL-4i1 using IL-4i1 deficient mice and reports deleterious effects of IL-4i1 deficiency in severe asthma. These findings provide valuable insights for future mechanistic and translational studies.

Supervisor: Dr S Hadebe (Pathology)
Co-supervisor: Professor F Brombacher (Pathology)

Mugari, Mufaro Buhlebenkosi
Thesis Title: *Quantification of pyrethroid and organophosphate metabolites in hair and urine samples of rural children from the Western Cape, South Africa using the two-dimensional gas chromatography-mass spectrometry*

Mufaro Mugari completed her BSc at the University of Forte Hare, BSc (Hons) and MSc at the University of Stellenbosch before beginning full-time study towards her PhD at UCT.

Mufaro Mugari's thesis examines the quantification of pyrethroid and organophosphate metabolites in children's hair and urine in the Western Cape. Using two-dimensional gas chromatography-mass spectrometry, her work assesses the health risks of pesticide exposure in rural children. This research initiated a novel method to enhance the detection of these chemicals, aiming to provide a robust framework for public health strategies. The study reveals a consistent presence of these metabolites in the samples examined, indicating widespread exposure among children. Mufaro Mugari's approach not only refines the analytical methodology but also contributes to understanding the dynamic nature of pesticide interaction with human health. Her work is pivotal in shaping the future of environmental health research, especially concerning vulnerable populations like children in agricultural settings.

Supervisor: Professor MA Dalvie (Public Health and Family Medicine)
Co-supervisor: Professor N Khumalo (Medicine)

Mukonda, Elton Emmanuel
Thesis Title: *Improving chronic disease monitoring in resource limited settings: simulation and economic evaluation approaches*

Elton Mukonda holds a BSc (Hons) in Mathematics from the University of Zimbabwe and an MPhil in Demography from UCT. He joined the School of Public Health in 2016 and enrolled for a PhD three years later.

Elton Mukonda's thesis provides insights into the feasibility of adopting HbA1c monitoring guidelines from high-income countries (HICs) in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs) for managing Type 2 Diabetes, despite the substantial contextual differences. He found that the current adopted monitoring guidelines were based on expert opinion. Considering this, he used routinely collected clinical practice data to investigate the short-term and long-term impact of monitoring recommendations on health outcomes. Applying a mixed-methods approach which includes statistical analyses and an economic evaluation, he found strong evidence on the impact of HbA1c monitoring on costs and health outcomes that can be used as supporting evidence for current HbA1c monitoring guidelines.

Supervisor: Professor M Lesosky (National Heart and Lung Institute, Imperial College London)
Co-supervisor: Professor S Cleary (Public Health and Family Medicine)

Muwanga, Vanessa Mwebaza
Thesis Title: *Performance of host blood transcriptomic signatures for TB diagnosis and monitoring TB treatment*

Vanessa Muwanga completed her BSc (Hons) in Biomedical Sciences at Makerere University in 2017. She received her MSc in Immunology from the University of Aberdeen in 2018 and began full-time study towards her PhD in Clinical Science & Immunology in 2020.

Vanessa Muwanga's thesis aims to advance development of sputum-free biomarkers, by assessing and comparing diagnostic performance for TB of 20 blood transcriptomic signatures

selected from several dozen reported in the scientific literature. Her results demonstrate promising diagnostic performance of blood transcriptomic signatures for distinguishing between symptomatic adults with tuberculosis and those with other respiratory diseases. She also investigated performance of these signatures for monitoring TB treatment in children with non-severe TB, which illustrated good performance in those with confirmed TB, but poor performance in those with unlikely TB. The findings support further development of transcriptomic signatures as TB triage tests and treatment monitoring tools.

Supervisor: Professor TJ Scriba (Pathology)
Co-supervisor: Dr SC Mendelsohn (Pathology)

Naidoo, Raveen
Thesis Title: *Structural and predictive models of factors influencing response time of ambulances in low and middle-income countries: a South African perspective*

Raveen Naidoo completed his BTech in Emergency Medical Care at Durban University of Technology, MSc in Cardiology at University of Brighton, UK, MSc in Emergency Medicine at University of Witwatersrand, and began part-time study towards his PhD in 2017.

Raveen Naidoo's thesis reports that approximately 60% of all calls to Western Cape Emergency Medical Services (EMS) were attended to within 60 minutes; 80% within 120 minutes. Interfacility Transfers (IFTs) exhibited prolonged response times, especially within Cape Town. Mean response times varied significantly between districts, ranging from 31.4 to 139.3 minutes. He went on to develop a structural equation model of factors affecting ambulance response times, integrating qualitative and quantitative elements, offering a comprehensive model for LMICs. His research findings indicate that solely measuring response times inadequately assesses efficiency. Evaluating service targets against available resources across political, economic, social, technological, environmental, legal, and institutional contexts is crucial. Implementing targeted interventions within these domains collectively contributes to reducing response times. These findings highlight the complex interplay of factors influencing EMS response times in LMICs and will be useful in the implementation of enhancements in emergency care efficiency within resource-constrained settings.

Supervisor: Associate Professor W Stassen (Surgery)
Co-supervisors: Emeritus Professor L Wallis (Surgery); Professor O Odetunji (Industrial and Systems Engineering, University of Pretoria)

Odayar, Jasantha
Thesis Title: *Patterns, predictors and outcomes of patient transfer in public sector chronic primary care services*

Jasantha Odayar holds an MBCHB from UCT and worked as a clinician before returning to UCT in 2015 to complete an MPH and begin her PhD.

Jasantha Odayar's thesis focuses on transfers between primary health care (PHC) facilities of stable patients with chronic conditions, focussing on people living with HIV, including postpartum women, and people living with diabetes. She finds similar rates of transfers and post-transfer outcomes among people living with diabetes and people living with HIV, with high rates of transfers between PHC facilities and poor outcomes post-transfer. To understand possible reasons for poor outcomes post-transfer she reviews guidelines for the management of transfers, reviews medical records of people living with HIV who transferred and analyses qualitative data among postpartum women living with HIV who transferred. She finds that guidance regarding management of transfers is limited, and management practices are inconsistent, contributing to poor support for people with chronic diseases who transfer between facilities. The thesis points to the urgent need for policy and service interventions to support this patient population.

Supervisor: Professor L Myer (Public Health and Family Medicine)

Orgill, Marsha Sarah
Thesis Title: *Strengthening district management as a key lever in health system strengthening: bottom up innovation in two district health systems in South Africa*

Marsha Orgill is a Health Policy and Systems Researcher, with a background in Public Policy and Economics. She currently works as a Senior Researcher at The Children's Institute, UCT. Her research includes policy implementation, the politics of policy formulation, management in health systems, alcohol policy analysis and early childhood development.

Marsha Orgill's thesis considers experiences within the District Health System (DHS) in South Africa. Using a realist evaluation approach and case studies of two district pilot sites for the early phase of National Health Insurance reform testing (2012-2017), the thesis analyses the emergence of bottom-up innovations that effected change in DHS management capacity and supported system strengthening. It illustrates how senior DHS managers drew on their tacit knowledge, understanding of local context, formal training, and systems thinking and sensemaking skills, to develop the competencies and capabilities of DHS managers and the capacity of DHS structures. This was stimulated by the prioritisation of management strengthening as part of nationally led reforms. She shows that formal training programmes focused on individuals are not sufficient to strengthen management. Wider processes of health system development are also required to strengthen routine structures and processes that will support and sustain managers in their work.

Supervisor: Professor L Gilson (Public Health and Family Medicine)
Co-supervisor: Professor B Marchal (Public Health, Institute of Tropical Medicine, Antwerp)

Parusnath, Prianka
Thesis Title: *Repositioning Speech Language Pathology practices: engaging with family and community narratives to evolve communication supports for neurodivergent children*

Prianka Parusnath completed her BSc (Hons) and MSc qualifications at UCT and began full-time study towards her PhD in 2021. She has been a practising Speech Therapist for the last 10 years, an experience which has influenced her academic work deeply.

Prianka Parusnath's thesis focuses on a shift toward community practice to support children with complex communication needs, and create environments that support inclusion and belonging for families whose children access alternative communication. Her thesis explores the depth and intricacy of what belonging and inclusion might look like and how hard fought it is when you experience a disability. This allowed her to propose a practice shift for therapists, with a specific focus on communication, reclaiming professional identity by acknowledging personal identity, reframing traditional practice through a decolonial lens and what it means to partner with community. The Invisible String is the conceptual framework that illustrates how community has the power to merge professional practice and family narratives to create communication support that is meaningful, accessible and a load that can be shared by the village that raises the children in them.

Supervisor: Professor H Kathard (Health and Rehabilitation Sciences)
Co-supervisors: Associate Professor P Gretschel (Health and Rehabilitation Sciences); Dr R Mallick (Health and Rehabilitation Sciences)

Pomario, Tania
Thesis Title: *Executive function in adolescents with fetal alcohol spectrum disorders: a developmental perspective*

Tania Pomario holds a MA degree in Neuropsychology from UCT and MPsych Clinical Psychology degree from the University of the Western Cape. She has been working as a clinical psychologist in private practice since 2009. She is currently working as a research associate at Griffith University, Brisbane, Australia.

Tania Pomario's thesis focusses on exploring the relationship between fetal alcohol spectrum disorder (FASD) and the development of executive function in adolescents from a low socio-economic community. She compared neuropsychological test performance of adolescents with FASD to that of typically developing adolescents at two time points 18 months apart. Her results show that performance on working memory tasks distinguishes adolescents with FASD from typically developing adolescents. There was no notable developmental change over the 18-month period in either group. To explore the extent to which adolescents with FASD experience difficulties with executive function in their daily lives, she examined parent and teacher ratings of their behaviour. Both parents and teachers reported that adolescents with FASD displayed significantly more executive difficulties but only teacher ratings were related to neuropsychological test results. This suggests that neuropsychological tests may fail to capture the extent of executive function difficulties experienced by individuals with FASD.

Supervisor: Associate Professor H Gouse (Psychiatry and Mental Health)
Co-supervisor: Professor KTG Thomas (Psychology)

Poswayo, Sibongiseni Kwakho Luntukazi
Thesis Title: *The role of Cysteinyl leukotriene type 1 receptor (CysLTR1) during Listeria monocytogenes and Mycobacterium tuberculosis infections in mice*

Sibongiseni Poswayo completed her BSc at the University of Fort Hare. She obtained her BSc (Hons) and MSc (with distinction) at UCT, and in 2020 she started her PhD degree in Clinical Sciences and Immunology.

Sibongiseni Poswayo's thesis aimed to evaluate the interplay between cysteinyl leukotriene signalling in bacterial infections for the development of novel host-directed therapies. She utilized CysLTR1 gene knockout mice on C57BL/6 and Balb/C backgrounds to understand host immunity in *Listeria monocytogenes (Lm)* and *Mycobacterium tuberculosis (Mtb)* infections. She discovered that CysLTR1 signalling is influenced by the host genetic background and gender which plays a vital role in neutrophil recruitment and disease outcome. Her thesis provides evidence that CysLTR1 is a potential target for the development of host-directed therapies in *Lm* and *Mtb* infections, however, in a genetic background- and gender-dependent manner.

Supervisor: Associate Professor SP Parihar (Pathology)
Co-supervisors: Dr M Ozturk (Pathology); Professor F Brombacher (Pathology)

Saidu, Rakiya
Thesis Title: *Prognostic risk factors in the development of vulval cancer in South African women: the role of human immunodeficiency virus, human papillomavirus, and tumour-infiltrating lymphocytes*

Rakiya Saidu obtained her MBBS certificate from the University of Maiduguri, Nigeria. She then specialised in Obstetrics and Gynaecology, obtained a Master's in Public Health from the University of Liverpool, United Kingdom in 2010, and is currently a Senior Research Officer at UCT.

Rakiya Saidu's thesis investigates prognostic factors for vulval cancer, including Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) status, Human Papillomavirus (HPV) infection, and tumour- infiltrating lymphocytes (TILs). Key findings include a high prevalence of HIV (31.3%) and HPV (78%) among vulval cancer patients, with HPV-positive patients exhibiting better survival outcomes. Advanced age and stage at diagnosis are significantly poor prognostic factors. TIL density, particularly CD8+ cells in the tumour invasive margin is an independent prognostic factor for overall survival. HIV infection is associated with higher CD8+ TIL density but appears to modulate their prognostic value, rendering them ineffective. These findings highlight the complex interplay between viral infections, immune responses, and prognosis in vulval cancer, underscoring the need for personalised risk-stratified approaches incorporating these factors for optimal management.

Supervisor: Emeritus Professor L Denny (Obstetrics and Gynaecology)
Co-supervisors: Professor J-A Passmore (Pathology); Dr H-T Wu (Pathology)

Tshavhungwe, Mvuwo Phophi
Thesis Title: *Drug recovery in paediatric Tuberculous Meningitis*

Mvuwo Tshavhungwe completed her BSc. in Medical Sciences (Hons equivalent) at University of Limpopo and thereafter enrolled for a Master's in Medical Sciences (Molecular Biology) at Stellenbosch University. She joined the Paediatric Neurosurgery Division at UCT in June 2016 to pursue her PhD studies.

Mvuwo Tshavhungwe's thesis focuses on the most lethal form of tuberculosis, namely tuberculous meningitis (TBM) in children and examines how a key drug, rifampicin (RIF) used in treatment of TBM reaches the brain, where it is needed the most. Her PhD project first examined total RIF across multiple compartments which includes plasma (a peripheral compartment), lumbar/spinal cerebrospinal fluid (CSF) and ventricular CSF (VCSF) and brain extracellular fluid (ECF) through use of microdialysis. Secondly, her project determined RIF and total protein in paired lumbar and VCSF samples of TBM patients who presented with hydrocephalus. Her findings provide novel knowledge of RIF concentrations in VCSF and brain ECF which are closest to the target site of infection in the brain. These findings are important as TBM affects children during critical brain development and there is an urgency to optimize antimicrobial therapy that reaches the target site of infection in the brain.

Supervisor: Professor A Figaji (Surgery)
Co-supervisor: Associate Professor U Rohlwink (Surgery)

Udho, Samson
Thesis Title: *Adolescents' experiences of care during childbirth in health facilities in rural Northern Uganda: a mixed-methods study*

Samson Udho is a registered nurse, with a Bachelor of Nursing and Master of Nursing (Midwifery & Women's Health) from Makerere University, Uganda. He is a Senior Lecturer in Midwifery and Women's Health at Lira University. He began his PhD in Nursing at UCT in 2021.

Samson Udho's thesis examines the influence of Person-Centred Maternity Care (PCMC) during facility-based childbirth on adolescents' experience of care, in rural northern Uganda. Using a mixed-methods approach, a researcher-administered survey assessed the level of PCMC among adolescents. In-depth interviews then explored the nature and drivers of the care received. The level of PCMC was generally moderate, somewhat lower than for non-adolescent mothers reported elsewhere. Positive experiences included effective and respectful communication, and supportive care. While there were fewer descriptions of disrespect and physical and verbal abuse, neglect, non-consented interventions, bribery and extortion were reported. The nature and cleanliness of health facilities reflected mixed responses. Three drivers were identified – reasons for favourable treatment, reasons for mistreatment (age and perceived low status), and mechanisms to cope with mistreatment, including passive compliance. This study can inform the development of more adolescent-friendly care and contribute to reducing maternal and newborn mortality.

Supervisor: Emerita Associate Professor SE Clow (Health and Rehabilitation Sciences)

Zhou, Siyanai
Thesis Title: *ART adherence trajectories and correlates of treatment outcomes among adolescents in the Eastern Cape Province of South Africa*

Siyanai Zhou holds a BSc (Hons) degree in Operations Research and Statistics from the National University of Science and Technology, Zimbabwe, and an MPhil in Demography from the University of Cape Town. He joined the School of Public Health in 2021 for his PhD studies.

Siyanai Zhou's thesis uses group-based trajectory modelling to investigate longitudinal patterns of adherence to antiretroviral treatment (ART) among adolescents living with HIV (ALHIV) in South Africa. Combining social science data from a cohort of ALHIV with routinely collected health data, he also estimated the extent to which variations in adherence patterns impact HIV treatment outcomes. He then developed a set of structural equation models to test hypothesized pathways between co-occurring factors contributing to distinct adherence patterns over time. The findings of this thesis highlight distinct longitudinal adherence patterns among ALHIV, substantial inconsistent adherence to ART, poor viral load suppression and high mortality. The findings provide insights into potential points for intervention within sub-groups of ALHIV requiring support, and potential scalable strategies to improve long-term HIV treatment outcomes for ALHIV. Overall, his thesis highlights the need to shift from a one-size-fits-all model of care to customised HIV care.

Supervisor: Associate Professor L Knight (Public Health and Family Medicine)
Co-supervisor: Associate Professor E Toska (Sociology)

ACADEMIC DRESS

OFFICERS OF THE UNIVERSITY

CHANCELLOR

The Chancellor wears a gown made from dark blue silk. The front of the gown has facings down each side made of dark blue velvet embroidered with a gold floral design. The gown and sleeves are lined with pale blue silk and the sleeves are looped up in front with a gold cord and button. The yoke of the gown is edged with gold cord. The gown is worn with a square blue velvet hat with a soft crown and gold tassel.

VICE-CHANCELLOR

The Vice-Chancellor wears a gown made from bright blue silk. The front of the gown has facings down each side and sleeve-linings of pale blue silk. The sleeves are looped up in front with a gold cord and button and the yoke of the gown is edged with gold cord. The gown is worn with a black velvet bonnet with a silver cord.

DEPUTY VICE-CHANCELLOR

A Deputy Vice-Chancellor wears a gown made from dark blue silk. The gown has closed sleeves with an inverted T-shaped opening at the level of the elbow to free the arms. The front of the gown has facings of light blue down each side. The sleeves are lined with light blue and the yoke of the gown is edged with silver cord. The gown is worn with a black velvet bonnet with a silver cord.

CHAIR OF COUNCIL

The Chair of Council wears a gown, of the same pattern as that worn by the Vice-Chancellor, made from light blue silk. The front of the gown has facings down each side and a yoke of dark blue. The sleeves are lined with dark blue and the facings and yoke are trimmed with gold cord. The sleeves are looped up in front with a gold cord and button. The gown is worn with a black velvet bonnet with a gold tassel.

MEMBERS OF COUNCIL

Members of Council wear graduate-pattern gowns made from black silk. The front of the gown has 10cm wide, light blue facings down each side trimmed with dark blue cord. The gown is worn with a black velvet bonnet with a blue cord.

REGISTRAR

The Registrar wears a gown made from black silk. The front of the gown has 10cm wide facings of blue silk down each side. The gown is worn with a black velvet bonnet with a white cord.

PRESIDENT OF CONVOCATION

The President of Convocation wears a gown made from black silk and has long closed sleeves with an inverted T-shaped opening at the level of the elbow to free the arms. The front of the gown has facings down each side and sleeves of blue silk. The gown is worn with a black velvet bonnet with a blue tassel.

UNIVERSITY ORATOR

The University Orator wears a gown of gold silk with bright blue silk facings and a yoke edged with gold cord. A black mortar board with a gold tassel is worn with the gown.

ACADEMIC DRESS (continued)

GOWNS

A plain black gown styled after the pattern of the Oxford scholar's gown is worn by diplomats, and Bachelor's, Honours and Master's graduands. Senior doctoral graduands wear a scarlet gown, with facings the colour distinctive of the faculty in which the degree is awarded. PhD graduands wear a scarlet gown without facings.

HOODS

The hood is particular to the qualification and the faculty. Diplomates and Bachelor's grdauands wear a black hood lined with white and edged with the colour distinctive of the faculty. Master's graduands wear a black hood lined with the colour distinctive of the faculty and edged with white, except in the case of the hood for the MMed degree, which is edged with red. Senior doctoral graduands wear a hood of the colour distinctive of the faculty and a black velvet bonnet with a cord of the colour distinctive of the faculty in which the degrees is awarded. PhD graduands wear a hood of scarlet lined with black and a black velvet bonnet with a cord of the colour distinctive of the faculty in which the degree is awarded.

DISTINCTIVE COLOURS

Faculty of Commerce	Yellow
Faculty of Engineering and the Built Environment	Green
Faculty of Health Sciences	Red
Faculty of Law	Old gold
Faculty of Humanities	Blue
Faculty of Science	Purple

VISION AND MISSION
UNIVERSITY OF CAPE TOWN

Vision

An inclusive and engaged research-intensive African university that inspires creativity through outstanding achievements in learning, discovery and citizenship; enhancing the lives of its students and staff, advancing a more equitable and sustainable social order and influencing the global higher education landscape.

Mission

UCT is committed to engaging with the key issues of our natural and social worlds through outstanding teaching, research and scholarship. We seek to advance the status and distinctiveness of scholarship in Africa through building strategic partnerships across the continent, the global south and the rest of the world.

UCT provides a vibrant and supportive intellectual environment that attracts and connects people from all over the world.

We aim to produce graduates and future leaders who are influential locally and globally. Our qualifications are locally applicable and internationally acclaimed, underpinned by values of engaged citizenship and social justice. Our scholarship and research have a positive impact on our society and our environment.

We will actively advance the pace of transformation within our University and beyond, nurturing an inclusive institutional culture which embraces diversity.

OFFICERS OF THE UNIVERSITY

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Precious Moloi-Motsepe, MBBCh DCH *Witwatersrand* Dip in Women's and Reproductive Health *Stellenbosch*

Vice-Chancellor
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MSc *LSHTM* PhD *Witwatersrand* MASSAf

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Kathleen Idensohn (Interim), BA LLB *Cape Town* LLM *Cantab* PhD *Cape Town* Advocate of the High Court

Chief Operating Officer
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Engineering & the Built Environment:	Alison Emslie Lewis, PrEng BSc(Eng)Chem MSc(Eng) PhD *Cape Town* FSAIChE FSAIMM MASSAf FSAAE FIChemE
Health Sciences:	Lionel Patrick Green-Thompson, DA FCA *CMSA* MBBCh MMed PhD *Witwatersrand*
Humanities:	Shose Kessi, PDBA *Witwatersrand* BA(Hons) *London* MSc PhD *LSE*
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Dean of Higher Education Development
Kasturi Behari-Leak, BA(Hons) HDE BEd *Durban-Westville* MEd *Cape Town* PhD *Rhodes*

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- Connect with thousands of UCT alumni
- Locate UCT alumni in your area using mobile GPS
- Access career mentorship opportunities
- Share images from your reunions and alumni events
- View notifications of UCT events taking place in your city
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You can sign-up in less than 2 minutes, utilizing your Facebook, LinkedIn or email credentials. Visit www.uctalumniconnect.com or scan the QR code, then click on the 'Join' link to sign up. It is that easy. Membership verification is fast.

SCAN ME

To remain in contact with former UCT classmates and to keep abreast of important developments taking place at your alma mater, make sure that you update your contact details on our website: www.alumni@uct.ac.za. Here are some of the other ways you can stay in touch with us:

- Attend UCT alumni events hosted in your region
- Participate in the AGM of Convocation
- Join UCT Alumni Connect today
- Find and follow us on social media @UCTalumni
- Visit the Alumni Relations team in the Old Admin Building, located on UCT Lower Campus
- We love to profile our alumni. Email your news to: alumni@uct.ac.za

UCT benefits from a global network of alumni ambassadors, chapters and affinity groups, with an increasing number of volunteer networks across Africa. Our international UCT offices are focal points for leveraging institutional and research relationships, as well as donor opportunities. You can connect with one of our regional offices:

SOUTH AFRICA
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The Development and Alumni Department looks forward to meeting you. Join us at one of the many alumni events hosted around the world, on campus at a UCT public lecture, at UCT Summer School or at your class reunion. Let's stay connected.