GRADUATION CEREMONY

Faculty of Health Sciences (Ceremony 2)

SARAH BAARTMAN HALL

31 March 2026

FACULTY OF HEALTH SCIENCES (CEREMONY 2)

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 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.

NAMES OF GRADUANDS/DIPLOMATES

An asterisk * denotes that the qualification will be awarded in the absence of the candidate

FACULTY OF HEALTH SCIENCES

Dean: Professor L Green-Thompson

HIGHER CERTIFICATE IN DISABILITY PRACTICE

Celine Abigail Adonis
*Andisiwe Bhulo
*Sothembelenkosini Blaauw
Owethu Bontshi
*Marilee Alexandra Dace
Sibongiseni Faku
*Khanyiso Jiba
*Lerato Koetlisi
Aaliyah Lamara
*Nomfundo Luthuli
Nolwazi Ashanti Magagula
Lienkie Sijakati Masoga
Tamia Elize Miller
*Busisiwe Ndaba
*Sinalo Ntantiso
Luyanda Phike
*Mia Elizabeth Raymond
*Mapula Phodiso Sekgotlaboraga
Siyanga Mfundo Sodam
Jamie-Leigh Solomon
Raeesah Syce
*Jade Edwina Walker

ADVANCED DIPLOMA IN COSMETIC FORMULATION SCIENCE

Chaylon Wynona De Koe
Flavia Levinia Levimbi
Kaylin Jada Müller (with distinction)
Nobesuthu Mxinwa
Neani Belinda Phuthu
*Tania Slabbert (with distinction)
Sinqobile Zondi

POSTGRADUATE DIPLOMA IN ADDICTIONS CARE

*Natalie Stella Bezuidenhout
*Christelle Cisteen De Koker
*Eirini Koukouzellis
Eloise Reid (with distinction)
Craig Andrew Thirlwell
*Karen Lynn Walton (with distinction)

POSTGRADUATE DIPLOMA IN COMMUNITY AND GENERAL PAEDIATRICS

*Kimberleigh Maureen Austin
*Geraldine Angeline Beukes
Ntombizonke Coni
Celiwe Dada
Heloise Elena Goodfellow (with distinction)
Malebo Rebecca Mabusela Montani
*Ofhani Harmonious Makhari
Sindiswa Maseko
*Ezinne Chinecherem Oviawe
Gugulethu Precious Sigwebela
Abongile Tanga (with distinction)
Hilda Karin Van Niekerk (with distinction)
Luthando Siphosethu Zituta

POSTGRADUATE DIPLOMA IN DISABILITY STUDIES

Ruqaiyah Dramat (with distinction)
*Simone Du Preez (with distinction)
*Mamello Agnes Lesoetsa
Basetsana Tshegofatso Molotsi
*Andrew Mokgoko Motlhatlhedi
Kanya Mfundo Picane
Phumza Biziwe Mandisa Qongqo
*Lebohang Merlyn Sithole

POSTGRADUATE DIPLOMA IN EMERGENCY CARE

*Kerryn Elizabeth Alexander (with distinction)
Abulele Mary Binase
*Marcelle Bleker (with distinction)
*Nathanael Khethile Block
Lesley Chipindu
Simphiwe Mordest Dhlamini
Sharlene Dixon
Chanel Erasmus (with distinction)
*Clyde Malcolm Hayward
Maria Elizabeth Human (with distinction)
*Daae Kim (with distinction)
Muzikayise Moses Mbatha
Sabelo Mkiva
*Amelia Hunadi Molapo
*Lucas Sipho Mthalane
*Kevin Douglas Ovenstone (with distinction)
*Cassandra Gwendolene Peacock
*Paul Tafireyi
*Kevin Sean Van Der Walt (with distinction)

POSTGRADUATE DIPLOMA IN FAMILY MEDICINE

Nkongolo Mireille Celestin
Astrid Jacqueline Harry
Bomkazi Hazel Jita
Mathieu Ntande Lumbamba
*Jeppy Mayombe Mosabu
Ben Kaja Muzela
*Imke Nel (with distinction)
Passy Kapinga Nkongolo
Zakiyya Stellenboom
Kathryn Lee Stinson (with distinction)
Tamzyn Trevor (with distinction)
Mukanya Djo Tshilela

POSTGRADUATE DIPLOMA IN HEALTH ECONOMICS

Nurahn Abdurahman
*Kenya Addison (with distinction)
Marethabile Bernadett Bereng-Kuenene
*Jacques Bodenstein Bezuidenhout (with distinction)
Chisom Prince Charles-Chikezie (with distinction)
*Tendai Chipendo
Nkululeko Dube
Abongile Ncumisa Hintsa
Mogammad Fuad Jacobs
Chipo Ellen Kaseke
Pinky Vision Khumalo (with distinction)
*Rene John Lamont
Thandi Siziwe Mabeba
Leonard Matoboro Mahlare
Tshegofatso Masenya
Thobelani Mfengwana
Henry Bayanda Mkwananzi
Noluxolo Mngxekeza
John Kennedy Munthali
*Lindelwa Pumza Ngxobongwana
Thato Aobakwe Nyama
*Meera Patel
Tebogo Roslyn Sekele
Itumeleng Molatedi Selela
Khuveni Mmamoketi Sipula
Mathews Khutso Tepanyekga

*Laetitia Van Rhyn (with distinction)
Jade Stephanie Wiener

POSTGRADUATE DIPLOMA IN HEALTH PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION

*Robert Scott Gill (with distinction)
*Mavuto Masopera Gondwe
Lynn Karelse
Hilja-Aili Nuugwanga Shaanika
*Thembisa Ruth Tshaka

POSTGRADUATE DIPLOMA IN HEALTHCARE TECHNOLOGY MANAGEMENT

*Fortunate Nokukhanya Buthelezi
Bontle Chirwa
Shanyana Masakala
Brent Otto (with distinction)
Matthew Terence Peinke (with distinction)
Dumisani Tshali
Ayanda Tuku

POSTGRADUATE DIPLOMA IN INTERDISCIPLINARY PAIN MANAGEMENT

*Yaaqoob Alhammadi
Jenilee Samantha Basson
*Unathi Beni
Helen Ann Buchanan (with distinction)
*Justin Carlse (with distinction)
*Este De Villiers (with distinction)
*Jenna-Leigh Du Preez
Jan Christoffel Grove (with distinction)
Beatricia Zamantshali Hlabangane (with distinction)
Michelle Jean Mostert (with distinction)
*Greta Niemann
*Tebatso Nkoko
Benedict Sithole
Matthew Wesley Swart
Okitolela Scotty Tambwe

POSTGRADUATE DIPLOMA IN OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH

*Abdul Rauf Salim Dosani
Om'ndus Enenda
Tankiso Justice Khothatso (with distinction)
Thabo Johannes Makhubela
Mohlamme John Mathabathe (with distinction)
Sizeka Maweya
Sello Hermans Moepi
Mamongali Belina Mokone
Ludo Taboka Molobe (with distinction)
*Gotsileene Monamodi
*Tiisetso Mothusi Mothopeng (with distinction)
Kimberly Corryne Motloung (with distinction)
Fezeka Zamanisi Mthembu (with distinction)
Abraham Mulenga (with distinction)
Walter Mulumba Mulumba
*Goodluck Chinyere Nwagboso
Laché Verona Pretorius (with distinction)
Mitesh Ramjee
Sthembiso Strandson Rikhotso
Awazimetabocedricdaniel Selemani
Masego Tiro
Zanovuyo Goodwill Ximbi

POSTGRADUATE DIPLOMA IN PALLIATIVE MEDICINE

Farzana Abdulla
Tracey-Leigh Abrahams
*Margaret Adhiambo
*Jana Botha-Smith (with distinction)
*Theresa Brand
Clementine Dawn Brink
Caroline Megan Buckland
Bianca Jade Burton
Shitsundzuxo Shane Chauke
Dakota Lee Corbett
Leighlind Jeandre Daniels
Zelda De Beer (with distinction)
Keolebile Irene Ditlhabolo
Aneeka Domingo
*Karli Harrison (with distinction)
*Marina Anne Johnson (with distinction)
*Mizi Kashweka
Gerrit Keyter
Liandie Krause
*Gillian Morelle Lotze
Bibi Aysha Makda
Nnana Phillip Makume
*Ziphozonke Musa Mchunu
Katherine Elizabeth Megaw (with distinction)
Hane' Moffat
Boitumelo Precious Molise
*Jennipher Kombe Mulonda
Helena Megameno Ndjambi
*Zamandlazi Princess Ndlazi
*Ncobile Chantel Ngcamphalala
Perculia Akani Nkuna
Christi Pretorius
*Ella Rachamim (with distinction)
*Nadia Redelinghuys
*Abdulbaset Bashir M Sasi
Minenhle Thuliwe Sokhela
*Marlouise Steenkamp (with distinction)
Martinique Stilwell
Ntebaleng Stoffel

POSTGRADUATE DIPLOMA IN PUBLIC MENTAL HEALTH

*Anotida Roselyn Hove (with distinction)
*Richard Saidi Kumwenda
Zoleka Maqina
Rumbidzai Annastencia Masaire (with distinction)
*Steven Masauko Mphonda
*Lethabo Poo
Elzaan Brita Stevens (with distinction)

POSTGRADUATE DIPLOMA IN TB-HIV MANAGEMENT

Nhlamulo Olivia Baloyi
*Vuyolwethu Fadana
*Wendy Hine Gouws
*Muleka Kalala
*Irene Ntomfuthi Mahlangu
Carine Palesa Makgetlha
Bonolo Molaoa
Matodzi Lorna Musetsho
Zamaswazi Ignatia Mzolo
Noxolo Amanda Ndzoyiya (with distinction)
*Ndapunikwa Meameno Nghihalwa
Makhotso Merriam Ralehike
*Sethu Nonkwenkwezi Somzana
Anitha Zikona Tobo

DEGREE OF BACHELOR OF MEDICAL SCIENCE HONOURS

Jaime Altshuler (in the first class)
Chloe Charne Ash (in the first class)
Mia Denim Briner (in the first class)
*Joshua Dean Brink (in the first class)
Rosalie Grace Brouckaert (in the first class)
Athianda Bukula
*Frederik Leon Burgers
Anna Jean Butler (in the first class)
*Noluntu Hlumelo Buyana

Anela Cengani (in the first class)
Abigail Elizabeth Clemo (in the first class)
Amahle Amanda Dlamini
Michaela Amber Ehrich (in the first class)
Erin Layne Fischer (in the first class)
Lee Carlyle Fredericks (in the first class)
Sphumelele Precious Gcaba (in the first class)
Saba Meriam Gebreseilassie (in the first class)
Blessing Gumbu (in the first class)
Mrittika Islam
Michaela Despina Kapnias (in the first class)
Bontle Lesego Bonolo Kgothule
Alilita Gwiba Malusi Lajoboda (in the first class)
Lola Mariella Lee (in the first class)
Samantha Leigh Levetan (in the first class)
Hannah-Simone Lubbe (in the first class)
Hlongwane Ludwick (in the first class)
Lesego Collen Mahlasi (in the first class)
Chone Dikeledi Makhubela (in the first class)
Thobeka Mary Makoaqa
Robyn-Lee Manchest
Ayanda Pelvis Mandlana
Nosizwe Lilly Manyana
Sibusisiwe Shantell Matewe
Thompho Mathoni (in the first class)
Vhutshilo Mathoni
Karabo Morakane Matje (in the first class)
*Katlego Matlala (in the first class)
Olwethu Matta
Abigail Louise Milella (in the first class)
Kaylan Miller (in the first class)
Owethu Mlambo
Baphiwe Fortunate Mlondo (in the first class)
Buntu Mlonyeni (in the first class)
Moleboheng Valleriah Moipatli
Xilaveko Msapa (in the first class)
Azwindini Simon Mufara
Natasha Ruvarashe Murape (in the first class)
Ndivhuwo Pearl Murunzi
Rofhiwa Musoliwa
Boniwe Paran Ncethelo
Samukelisiwe Ndimande
Edward Lehlohonolo Nguni
Sasekani Ntshanga
Audrey Kelly Nyoni (in the first class)
Adetokunbo Oyebade
Zarah Alyssa Palha
Jae Eun Park (in the first class)
Tavia Tegan Quarmby (in the first class)
Zinhle Felicia Radebe
Lebo Patricia Ramohapi (in the first class)
Maxene Enyah Rich
*Frances Jennifer Schnell (in the first class)
Naadiya Seedat (in the first class)
Zeeka Sellidon (in the first class)
Zengeziwe Neliswa Shabangu
Patience Vimbai Shoko (in the first class)
Lutendo Sikhwari
Emelinah Silinda
Alexander Sittmann (in the first class)
Enya Marie Steyn (in the first class)
Lee-Ann Stuurman
Boitumelo Tokologo Thole
Karabo Annah Tisane (in the first class)
Emma Jane Van Der Velden (in the first class)
Candice Bronwyn Watkins (in the first class)
*Caitlin Williamson (in the first class)

DEGREE OF BACHELOR OF MEDICAL SCIENCE HONOURS IN BIOKINETICS

Sibongile Basjan
Ethan Ray Cameron
Caitlin Garvs
Michaela Magdalene Govender
Gemma Hoskins (in the first class)
*Daniella Anne Johnston (in the first class)
Tumelo Kekana
Aidan Roger Klein (in the first class)
Amy Lee Lavita
Seth Lee Shew
Moesha Oliver
Jesse Caleb Prodehl
Connor Thomas Ross
Aqueelah Samsodien

DEGREE OF BACHELOR OF MEDICAL SCIENCE HONOURS IN EXERCISE SCIENCE

Kayleigh Hiscock
Zanokuhle Kwanele Hlongwana
*Karabo Gift Nkuna
Yolisa Stofile

DEGREE OF MASTER OF CHEMICALS RISK MANAGEMENT

Thomas Alan Murray
Robert Musundire
*Sheirdath Michael Ramsammy
Jescica Megan Spannenberg (with distinction)

DEGREE OF MASTER OF MEDICINE

*Deng Marko Deng Atak
Sharvay Jayd Bagratee
Boineelo Baodirile (with distinction in the dissertation)
*Jennifer Clare Barnard
*Natacha Berkowitz
*Andrea Budge
Chali Margaret Chibuye
Raymond Chimatira (with distinction in the dissertation)
Chadwin Frederick Corin (with distinction in the dissertation)
Lisa Denise Dondashe
*Ghaalied Fakier
Abdul Waaghied Fakir
David Paul Ferreirinha (with distinction in the dissertation)
John Charles Fichardt
*Cameron Anthony Francis
*Shavina Frank
Buhlebenkosi Jacqueline Hlomani
Jacob Robin Hoffman (with distinction in the dissertation)
*Ashley John Jacobs
Nihaad Jacobs
*Stuart Jones
*Christine Louise Kopsch
Christiaan Johannes Kotze (with distinction in the dissertation)
*Elmar Kruger
Liesl Le Roux
Morgan Carla Lucas
Rendani Rhoda Maboko
Sharon Musonda Machona (with distinction in the dissertation)
Anzafulufhelo Maja
Tamsin Malengret
Moepeng Joyce Maseko
*Pako Motlaleselelo
*Kutlo Gos Gosego Motlhobogwa (with distinction in the dissertation)
Ncana Waziba Ncana
*Jonathan Timothy Oettlé
*Nerisha Pillay

*Gordon Hamilton Ian Robertson
Wilhelmus Diederiks Rocher
Theresia Amanda Rubler
Amanda Carol Saunders
Srihari Swaminathan
Joshua David Tippoo
Stefan Bernard Van Der Westhuizen
*Vincent Alexander Van Niekerk
Johanna Sophia Weenink
*Mark Herbert Wellmann (with distinction in the dissertation)
Yumna Williams-Mohamed (with distinction in the dissertation)

DEGREE OF MASTER OF PHILOSOPHY

Angelique Nicole Chetty (with distinction)
Rochelle Combrink
Michelle Nthabiseng De Souza
Rachael Eromosele (with distinction in the dissertation)
*Sune Mostert
Tasneem Toefy

DEGREE OF MASTER OF PHILOSOPHY IN ALLERGOLOGY

*Hilary Dzigbodi Andoh

DEGREE OF MASTER OF PHILOSOPHY IN BIOKINETICS

Vishaan Kamal Makan
Francois Du Toit Mcknight (with distinction in the dissertation)

DEGREE OF MASTER OF PHILOSOPHY IN CLINICAL HAEMATOLOGY

Mahlatse Mankgele

DEGREE OF MASTER OF PHILOSOPHY IN CLINICAL RESEARCH ADMINISTRATION

Nchimunya Hapeela

DEGREE OF MASTER OF PHILOSOPHY IN DEVELOPMENTAL PAEDIATRICS

*Takondwa Crispin Chimowa

DEGREE OF MASTER OF PHILOSOPHY IN MEDICAL GASTROENTEROLOGY

Dominic Munene Mutura (with distinction in the dissertation)

DEGREE OF MASTER OF PHILOSOPHY IN NEONATOLOGY

Mnqobi Njabulo Nxumalo
Johannes Botha Van Dyk

DEGREE OF MASTER OF PHILOSOPHY IN NEUROPSYCHIATRY

Rasmita Ori

DEGREE OF MASTER OF PHILOSOPHY IN PAEDIATRIC INFECTIOUS DISEASES

*Yemah Mariama Bockarie (with distinction in the dissertation)
Jombo Namushi (with distinction in the dissertation)

DEGREE OF MASTER OF PHILOSOPHY IN PAEDIATRIC NEPHROLOGY

Datonye Christopher Briggs

DEGREE OF MASTER OF PHILOSOPHY IN PAEDIATRIC NEUROLOGY

*Faith Alexander Mosha (with distinction in the dissertation)

DEGREE OF MASTER OF PHILOSOPHY IN PAEDIATRIC ONCOLOGY

*Beatrice Chikaphonya Phiri (with distinction in the dissertation)

DEGREE OF MASTER OF PHILOSOPHY IN PALLIATIVE CARE

Aileen Sandra Forbes (with distinction in the dissertation)
Siphile Vuyelwa Beauty Msane
*Bradley Ryan Parsons
Junaid Mohamed Vahed (with distinction in the dissertation)

DEGREE OF MASTER OF PHILOSOPHY IN PULMONOLOGY

Nadia Vorajee

DEGREE OF MASTER OF PHILOSOPHY IN SPORT AND EXERCISE MEDICINE

*Lynelle Alison Hoeks

DEGREE OF MASTER OF PUBLIC HEALTH

Ashlee Blacher (with distinction)
Walter Chabaya (with distinction)
Courteney Jade Collins (with distinction)
*Lydia Rose Davids (with distinction in the dissertation)
Ryan Michael Dinkele
Yushra Dinnie
Kirsten Robyn Dreyer
Chloé Fouché (with distinction)
Kairav Gokool (with distinction)
*Klaudia Ndapunikwa Inghepa
Grace Sophie Keston Ndhlovu (with distinction)
Pieriette Dunuta Nhlapo (with distinction)
Banyana Bone Sekwati
*Caroline Simons
Nokwanda Nokulunga Themba (with distinction)
Hayley Marget Law Wallace

DEGREE OF MASTER OF SCIENCE IN BIOMEDICAL ENGINEERING

Phelisa Ntayiya (with distinction)

DEGREE OF MASTER OF SCIENCE IN EXERCISE AND SPORTS PHYSIOTHERAPY

Kerstin Elke Müseler (with distinction in the dissertation)
Tessa Preen Preen
Bronwen Edith Talbot
Caroline Michelle Temlett (with distinction)
*Leanne Robyn Wilson

DEGREE OF MASTER OF SCIENCE IN MEDICINE

*Elaine Caroline Botha (with distinction)
*Andrea Coetzee (with distinction)
Christian John Cotchobos
Chiara Lea Manon Foret (with distinction)
Janine Amy Fredericks (with distinction)
*Lethabo Hlongwane
Jihaan Isaacs
*Pearly Joubert (with distinction)
*Nimra Bashir Khan
Erin Kathleen Kinghorn
Isabel Nathan Lieberman
Motsatsi Lucia Makoala (with distinction)
Nqaba Mancotywa
Pheziwe Luleka Mshunqwane
Darshni Kayleen Naiker
Stella Jane Newell (with distinction)
*Zainab Noor Mohamed
*Caryn Michelle Phipson (with distinction)
Nabeelah Samie (with distinction)
*Dane Marcus Sevenster (with distinction)
*Iram Shabir Shabir
Radhé Singh
Abel Hermanus Gerhardus Stoltz
*Micaela Louise Swart (with distinction)
Lutendo Tuwani (with distinction)
Mia van der Westhuizen (with distinction)
*Gerjo Wiese (with distinction)

DEGREE OF MASTER OF SCIENCE IN NURSING

Nassifu Ssemwanga (with distinction)

DEGREE OF MASTER OF SCIENCE IN SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGY

Nonhlanhla Khoza

DEGREE OF DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY

Christabell Abewe
Thesis Title: *Extended cost effectiveness analysis of interventions for early detection, screening and breast cancer control: case studies of South Africa and Uganda*

Christabell Abewe holds a BA in Economics from Makerere University Uganda, and a Master of Public Health (Health Economics) from UCT. In 2018 she began her studies towards a PhD at UCT.

Christabell Abewe's thesis focuses on economics of breast cancer early detection interventions in Uganda and South Africa. She firstly developed a dynamic state transition model to quantify the down-staging effect associated with early detection strategies that cause a stage-shift in breast cancer cases that would have otherwise been diagnosed as "late stage" to an "earlier stage". She then estimated the cost effectiveness of early detection interventions as compared to the status quo. Finally, she assessed for equity and financial protection considerations should the two countries publicly finance interventions for breast cancer control to all in need of these services. The findings from this thesis are notable for breast cancer policy in low-and-middle-income countries as the analysis demonstrated significant down-staging associated with early detection interventions. Moreover, providing breast cancer control services at no cost to the patient can provide financial protection to the poorest wealth quintiles compared to affluent counterparts.

Supervisor: Professor E Sinanovic (Public Health)
Co-supervisor: Professor J Moodley (Public Health)

Ursula-Claire Andong-Koung-Edzidzi
Thesis Title: *Development of a targeted delivery system for saRNAs using SNAP tag-based antibody fusion proteins to treat triple-negative breast cancer*

Ursula-Claire Andong-Koung Edzidzi completed her Msc in Medical Biochemistry at UCT and began full-time study towards her PhD in November 2021.

Ursula-Claire Andong-Koung-Edzidzi's thesis focuses on targeted therapy of triple-negative breast cancer (TNBC), and other aggressive breast cancer types. Based on these characteristics, Ursula-Claire Andong-Koung-Edzidzi aimed to conjugate a recombinant antibody with a fluorescent substrate and an anticancer drug using SNAP-tag for enzymatic self-labelling to generate a next-generation recombinant antibody-drug conjugate that internalizes into TNBC , inducing cell death. The results confirm that the generated antibody-drug conjugate successfully eliminates one subtype of TNBC. Ursula-Claire Andong-Koung-Edzidzi also combined SNAP-tag technology with nanotechnology to develop safer drug delivery systems. The preliminary results show the successful cloning of a human cytolytic fusion protein into the chosen vector for targeted delivery. These findings pave the way to improved potency, with reduced dosage and frequency of drug administration (chemotherapy), potentially reducing treatment costs while improving patient survival and access to therapy for this challenging cancer type.

Supervisor: Professor Dr. Dr. S Barth (Integrative Biomedical Sciences)
Co-supervisor: Dr. AO Akinrinmade (Integrative Biomedical Sciences)

Avuyonke Balfour
Thesis Title: *The role of mucosal-associated invariant T (MAIT) cells in long-term resistance to Mycobacterium tuberculosis (M.tb) infection in healthcare workers with sustained occupational exposure to TB*

Avuyonke Balfour completed his BSc, and BSc(Hons) at Rhodes University. He joined UCT to complete a MSc(Med) in 2019, after which he began his full-time study towards his PhD.

Avuyonke Balfour's thesis focuses on understanding the factors that contribute to natural resistance to Mycobacterium tuberculosis (Mtb) infection in healthcare workers (HCW) who remain uninfected despite high occupational exposure to TB. His research investigated the epidemiological, immunological, and transcriptional characteristics to explain why these individuals remain uninfected. Using flow cytometry, Luminex assays, and gene expression profiling, he shows that HCW with resistance to Mtb infection have higher levels of T cell activation, particularly in mucosal-associated invariant T cells, a specialized type of immune cells involved in early defence against infections. This heightened activation may help the immune system respond more quickly to Mtb. Additionally, cytokine analyses reveal that those who resist infection have stronger immune responses, with increased production of immune signalling molecules. His findings provide insights into protective immune responses against Mtb infection and may inform future vaccine and immunotherapy strategies aimed at enhancing natural resistance to Mtb infection.

Supervisor: Associate Professor M Shey (Medicine)
Co-supervisor: Professor G Meintjes (Medicine)

*Clifford George Banda
Thesis Title: *Efficacy, safety and pharmacokinetics of dihydroartemisinin-piperaquine for perennial malaria chemoprevention in infants during routine health facility visits*

Clifford Banda completed an MBBS degree from the University of Malawi, an MSc degree in Epidemiology from the University of London (LSHTM) and an MMed in Clinical Pharmacology from UCT. He is a Fellow of the College of Clinical Pharmacologists of South Africa and began his PhD studies in 2022.

Clifford Banda's thesis focuses on generating evidence to inform the optimal dosing regimen for a promising malaria medicine, dihydroartemisinin-piperaquine, when used to prevent malaria in infants (under the age of 1 year). He investigates how safe and effective this medicine is when given during routine health facility visits, and in a context where a new malaria vaccine was recently introduced. He finds that, in this setting, the medicine is safe and has the potential to prevent malaria in these vulnerable children. He further demonstrates that by 9 months of age, drug exposure at currently recommended doses is sub-optimal. He attributes this to rapid body changes that arise with physiological maturation and increasing age, resulting in more clearance of the medicine from the body. To overcome this, he proposes better time points when this medicine could be administered routinely to infants to prevent malaria and ensure complementarity with malaria vaccines.

Supervisor: Professor KI Barnes (Medicine)
Co-supervisor: Professor J Tarning (University of Oxford, Nuffield Department of Medicine)

Gillian Jennifer Bedwell
Thesis Title: *Childhood adversity and provoked cytokine expression as overlapping influences on pain-related signalling*

Gillian Bedwell is a registered physiotherapist with a Postgraduate Diploma in Interdisciplinary Pain Management and a research masters, from UCT. She began her PhD candidature in April 2021.

Gillian Bedwell's thesis investigates how adverse experiences in childhood increase risk of persistent pain in adulthood. She hypothesised that childhood adversity would amplify pro-inflammatory activity and pain-related neural signalling – a known contributor to persistent pain. In South African adults with varying histories of childhood adversity and no clinical pain, Gillian assessed childhood adversity, provoked in vitro expression of pro-inflammatory cytokines, and pain-related neural signalling before and after in vivo inflammatory provocation. Contrary to findings from previous work in high-income settings, neither provoked cytokine response nor provoked change in pain-related neural signalling was related to childhood adversity. However, individuals with more severe childhood adversity showed greater amplification of pain-related neural signalling in one measure – the surface area of induced secondary hyperalgesia. These unexpected findings highlight the need to study diverse populations to better understand the psychoneuroimmunology of pain, including how context-specific social and biological factors interact to influence pain.

Supervisor: Associate Professor VJ Madden (Anaesthesia and Perioperative Medicine and Psychiatry and Mental Health)
Co-supervisors: Professor R Parker (Anaesthesia and Perioperative Medicine); Professor MR Hutchinson (School of Biomedicine, University of Adelaide)

*Faisal Muhammad Binks
Thesis Title: *The development of an EMS low acuity dispatch tool*

Faisal Binks holds bachelor's degrees in emergency medical care and business administration, as well as an MBA. He joined UCT in the Division of Emergency Medicine in 2018 to pursue his PhD. Prior to joining UCT, he held management roles, practised in Emergency Medical Services, and is currently in academia.

Faisal Binks' thesis addresses a critical gap in emergency medical services by examining the telephonic dispatch of emergency resources to non-emergency cases in resource- constrained settings. By engaging with national EMS experts, a consensus was reached on the descriptors that render an incident as non-emergent. He then analyses over 250,000 emergency incidents to identify predictive variables for the non-emergent transport of patients to hospital. His study simultaneously investigates which emergency cases truly justify high-priority dispatch and which do not. Leveraging on classification models, he develops an algorithm and a structured dispatch script for telephonic triage. This tool aims to reduce unnecessary ambulance dispatches, optimise resource allocation, and improve response times to critical cases. The research not only informs national EMS protocols but also provides a framework for telephonic dispatch systems globally, particularly in low- and middle-income countries.

Supervisor: Associate Professor W Stassen (Family, Community, and Emergency Care)
Co-supervisor: Professor L Wallis (Family, Community, and Emergency Care)

Candice Hilda Bonaconsa
Thesis Title: I*nvestigating team dynamics and communication across patient in-hospital pathways and identifying mechanisms for optimising clinical practice*

Candice Bonaconsa holds a B.Cur degree from the Stellenbosch University. She completed her MSc in Nursing at UCT in 2013 and began her PhD in 2021.

Candice Bonaconsa's thesis investigates optimising communication and team dynamics in infection care within an Intensive Care Unit setting, through the innovative use of sociograms for real-time mapping and analysis of multidisciplinary team (MDT) clinical decision making. She further investigates gaps in infection management during nursing handovers and co-designs a visual handover tool with structured sections for Antimicrobial Stewardship (AMS) and Infection Prevention and Control (IPC), ensuring consistent management. Extending her research internationally to operating theatres in India, together with local researchers, she uses sociograms to visualise pre-, peri- and post-operative MDT practices, identifying the gaps and opportunities in infection care. Her findings emphasise the importance of discipline-specific contribution to infection management and the value of team reflexivity and feedback to improve process and clinical outcomes. Her work emphasises that transforming communication practices can optimise MDT AMS and IPC practices, advocating for collaboration and structured communication to enhance patient care.

Supervisor: Professor M Mendelson (Medicine)
Co-supervisor: Associate Professor E Charani (Medicine)

Catherine Jane Bradshaw
Thesis Title: *Design and development of a smart pleural biopsy device for improved procedural efficacy*

Catherine Bradshaw completed her BSc Engineering in Mechatronics at UCT and began a master's degree in biomedical engineering in 2017 before upgrading to a PhD in 2019.

Catherine Bradshaw's thesis looks at the design of a smart biopsy device to improve the diagnostic success rate and decrease the risks associated with current pleural biopsies. Catherine Bradshaw's work addresses a critical challenge in pleural biopsies, especially in resource-limited settings, where the high skill and equipment costs hinder the effectiveness of pleural biopsies, where a piece of the membrane lining the inside of the chest wall is collected and commonly used to diagnose TB in South Africa. Her work shows that incorporating simple, inexpensive sensors into a new needle designed to collect multiple biopsies at a single time could aid the doctor in collecting good biopsies leading to better diagnosis and patient care.

Carly Ann Burmeister
Thesis Title: *Investigation into the cooperation between the HPV oncoproteins E6/E7 with the oncogenic TBX3 transcription factor to promote cervical cancer*

Carly Burmeister holds a BSc in Genetics and Applied Biology, and a BSc (Hons) in Medical Cell Biology from UCT. Continuing at UCT, she started an MSc in Medical Cell Biology in 2021 which she upgraded to a PhD in 2022.

Cervical cancer is a leading cause of cancer-related deaths in women in low- and middle-income countries. Carly Burmeister's thesis investigates how the human papillomavirus (HPV), specifically the viral oncoproteins E6 and E7, interact and cooperate with the oncogenic transcription factor TBX3 to promote cervical cancer progression. Her research demonstrates that E6/E7, in cooperation with the host oncoprotein c-Myc, significantly increase TBX3 expression to enhance its oncogenic role. She further identifies novel interacting partners of TBX3, including Hsc70, nucleolin, and PP2A, each playing unique roles in regulating the stability, cellular localization, and functional activity of TBX3. Through comprehensive molecular analyses, her work provides valuable insights into the complex interplay between viral proteins and host factors, revealing critical mechanistic details of TBX3-driven oncogenesis. These discoveries pave the way for developing innovative targeted therapies designed to disrupt these molecular interactions and significantly improve therapeutic outcomes for cervical cancer patients.

Supervisor: Professor S Prince (Human Biology)

Co-supervisor: Honorary Associate Professor G Schäfer (Integrative Biomedical Sciences)

*Devon Byrnes
Thesis Title: *Balancing carbohydrates and fats: a dual approach to fuelling endurance exercise*

Devon Byrnes holds an MSc in Exercise Science from the UKZN. She joined the Division of Physiological Sciences at UCT for her PhD studies in 2021. Whilst pursuing her PhD, she worked as a lecturer in sports and exercise science and as a researcher focusing on performance and sports nutrition.

Devon Byrnes' thesis investigates the impact of different dietary strategies on endurance running performance, with a specific focus on carbohydrate and medium-chain triglyceride (MCT) supplementation. Through a randomized control trial, she examined metabolic responses, fuel utilization, and physiological adaptations in endurance runners. Her findings highlight the potential benefits of combining MCT and carbohydrates for endurance performance. Additionally, she was able to define the dietary habits of South African marathon runners, which has not been done before. The research contributes valuable insights into how endurance athletes can optimise performance through nutritional strategies.

Supervisor: Emeritus Associate Professor A Bosch (Human Biology)

Tsaone Charlotte Chalumbila
Thesis Title: *Investigating adverse intergenerational effects of prenatal maternal psychological distress through infant gene expression profiles*

Tsaone Chalumbila completed her BSc in Human Neuroscience at the University of Birmingham and MSc in Molecular Neuroscience at the University of Bristol. She began full-time study towards her PhD (Psychiatry) at UCT in 2021, while simultaneously working as a lecturer at the University of Botswana.

Tsaone Chalumbila's thesis focusses on investigating the association between prenatal maternal psychological distress and adverse child developmental outcomes. She conducted two systematic reviews examining a) newborn transcriptomic changes and b) child developmental outcomes associated with prenatal maternal psychological distress, which provided preliminary evidence for an association. She then conducted a differential gene and microRNA expression analysis utilising data from the South African Drakenstein Child Health Study (DCHS). Although no significant differential gene expression was found; three microRNAs were upregulated in newborns exposed to prenatal maternal psychological distress (compared to unexposed newborns). Further, the upregulation of these microRNAs was associated with an increased risk of adverse socio-emotional and fine motor development in the affected toddlers at 24 months. This project yields novel – though preliminary – findings suggesting that transcriptomic changes may constitute one of the molecular mechanisms underlying the association between prenatal maternal psychological distress and child developmental outcomes in the DCHS.

Supervisor: Associate Professor N Koen (Psychiatry and Mental Health)
Co-supervisors: the late Professor DJ Stein (Psychiatry and Mental Health); Professor A Wingo (Psychiatry and Behavioural Science, University of California Davis)

Shaakira Chaya
Thesis Title: *The impact of early life exposures on lung function in African preschool children*

Shaakira Chaya completed her MBBCh degree and paediatric training at the University of the Witwatersrand. She completed her pulmonology training at UCT in 2018, after she embarked on her PhD journey.

Shaakira Chaya's thesis highlights the need for improved access to preschool lung function testing in low- and middle-income countries (LMIC) and demonstrates its feasibility for both clinical and epidemiological use. Her PhD work develops the first African reference equation for oscillometry, an emergent lung function test useful in early childhood, allowing for better understanding and interpretation of these measures. Her research demonstrates the impact of a number of early life factors impacting healthy lung development in African children, including antenatal and postnatal exposure to indoor air pollution and environmental tobacco smoke. This research also highlights the long-term risks for children born preterm, providing the first longitudinal lung function data in this population from a LMIC context. Furthermore, it identifies the vulnerability of moderate and late born children in LMIC. Dr. Chaya's work lays the foundation for future interventions aimed at improving lung health in vulnerable African children.

Supervisor: Professor D Gray (Paediatrics and Child Health)
Co-supervisor: Professor H Zar (Paediatrics and Child Health)

*Jenny Jie Chen
Thesis Title: *Reaching a forgotten key population: evidence and recommendations to improve PrEP delivery for pregnant or parenting young women in sub-Saharan Africa*

Jenny Chen-Charles completed her BMedSc (Hons) at the University of Birmingham in 2017, and MSc at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine in 2019. She joined the Department of Medicine at UCT for her PhD studies in 2022.

Jenny Chen-Charles' thesis focuses on improving HIV prevention for pregnant or parenting young women in sub-Saharan Africa – a population often overlooked in health services despite their heightened HIV risk. Using a mixed-methods approach, she explores why many of these women struggle to access and continue using pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP). She finds that while structural factors like access and awareness help young women start PrEP, continued use depends on emotional, relational, and

tailored support. To conceptualise these dynamics, she proposes a novel 'push and pull' framework, offering a more nuanced, person-centred understanding of PrEP use as a fluctuating, context-dependent process. Her work advances HIV prevention by offering practical, youth-responsive strategies that centre choice, continuity, and care. The thesis makes a timely contribution to global efforts to end HIV transmission, reduce HIV in children, and ensure that pregnant or parenting young women are not left behind in the HIV response.

Supervisor: Professor L-G Bekker (Medicine)
Co-supervisor: Associate Professor E Toska (Sociology)

Lindsay Georgina Farrant
Thesis Title: T*he integration of palliative care for patients with chronic lung disease in primary care settings in metropolitan Cape Town: Assessment of feasibility*

Lindsay Farrant completed her MBBCh at the University of the Witwatersrand and her M.Phil in Palliative Medicine at UCT. She started studies towards her PhD in 2020.

Lindsay Farrant's thesis examines the feasibility of integrating palliative care into primary care for patients with chronic lung disease (CLD). A synthesised framework is developed of the structures, processes and outcomes for the concept and application of integrating palliative care into standard care within Low and Middle-Income Countries. The contextual realities within primary care for patients with CLD, and healthcare professional (HCP) dilemmas are described, from diagnosis and disease-directed care through advanced disease requiring palliative care. A mixed methods assessment is conducted for a theory of change derived intervention to train and mentor HCPs to integrate palliative care for patients with CLD. Training supports HCP awareness of palliative care needs but is not sufficient to change practice and outcomes. Clinical mentorship, leadership and health system functions are required to support the feasibility of integrating palliative care into primary care for the complex care needs of patients with CLD.

Supervisor: Emeritus Associate Professor L Gwyther (Family Community and Emergency Care)
Co-supervisors: Professor R van Zyl-Smit (Medicine); Professor R Harding (King's College London, Florence Nightingale Faculty of Nursing Midwifery and Palliative Care, Cicely Saunders Institute of Palliative Care Policy and Rehabilitation)

Innocent Ekparolaguaziba Francis
Thesis Title: *Clinical and environmental risk factors of Helicobacter pylori, gastric cancer, and gastric microbiome signature in a South African cohort*

Innocent Francis graduated with an MBBS at the University of Jos, Nigeria. He received a Diploma in Internal Medicine and a Master's in Medicine (UCT) and is a Fellow of the College of Physicians. He began his PhD and sub-specialist gastroenterology training in 202,1 graduating as a Gastroenterologist in 2024.

Innocent Francis' thesis investigates the link between Helicobacter pylori, a bacterium known to cause stomach cancer, that is highly prevalent in Africa and yet is associated with surprisingly lower-than-expected rates of stomach cancer in Africa. This phenomenon is referred to as the 'African enigma.' His research explores whether this paradox is real and examines how factors like the stomach microbiome and bacterial genetics influence stomach cancer rates in the region. His findings will deepen our understanding of how Helicobacter pylori contributes to stomach cancer and may guide future strategies for prevention and treatment in high-risk populations.

Supervisor: Professor M Setshedi (Medicine)
Co-supervisor: Professor A Brink (Pathology)

Joseph Wambugu Gitari
Thesis Title: *Understanding the capacity for adaptive mutagenesis in mycobacteria*

Joseph Gitari obtained his BSc and MSc qualifications from Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology (JKUAT) and the Pan African University Institute for Basic Science, Technology and Innovation (PAUTI) in Kenya before undertaking full-time study towards his PhD at UCT in July 2019.

Joseph Gitari's thesis focuses on the ability of Mycobacterium tuberculosis, the bacterium which causes tuberculosis (TB), to diversify genetically through the acquisition of mutations. By applying a combination of microbiological and molecular techniques, his work establishes the impact of standard experimental conditions on the inferred mycobacterial mutation rate, thereby highlighting the need for enhanced tools to allow real-time insights into the mechanisms enabling, and timing of, adaptive mutagenesis in single bacteria exposed to lethal stress, including antitubercular antibiotics.

Supervisor: Professor DF Warner (Medicine)
Co-supervisors: Dr M Mason (Pathology); Dr A Koch (Pathology); Dr E Kigondu (Center for Traditional Medicine and Drug Research, Kenya Medical Research Institute); Emerita Professor V Mizrahi (Medicine)

Amy Sarah Graham
Thesis Title: *HIV/ART exposure effects in infants within an auditory-gut-brain axis framework*

Amy Graham completed a BSc in Biochemistry and Genetics, a BSc(Med)(Sci)(Hons) in Immunology and Infectious Diseases and a Master's in Neuroscience at UCT. She started her PhD in 2020.

Amy Graham's thesis explores the effects of HIV and antiretroviral (ART) exposure in a neonatal cohort. She identifies distinct disruptions to the development of white matter connections in the infant brain, specifically focusing

on tracts connected to auditory regions. Her findings indicate that HIV/ART exposure may interfere with the way in which development occurs in auditory white matter connections utilised in language. Furthermore, she sets forth an argument for considering the role of gut bacteria in HIV/ART-related alterations to auditory connections of the brain. Her results demonstrate the involvement of distinct bacteria in mediating HIV/ART exposure effects on the newborn brain, highlighting possible targets for future interventions. Through a review of existing literature, she proposes an auditory-gut-brain axis, thereby establishing a framework within which she then contextualises her findings and suggests avenues for future research.

Supervisor: Dr. M Holmes (Human Biology)
Co-supervisors: Dr. M Kaba (Pathology); Dr. M Jankiewicz (Human Biology)

Debbie Jane Groome
Thesis Title: *An action research approach to developing a recognition of prior learning framework for postgraduate studies in emergency medicine*

Debbie Groome holds a Bachelor of Technology in Emergency Medical Care, and Master of Health Science in Emergency Medical Care. She began her PhD studies in the Division of Emergency Medicine in 2022.

Debbie Groome's thesis employs an action research approach to explore the support needs of vocational paramedics transitioning to a postgraduate programme through recognition of prior learning. Her research identifies key enablers and barriers experienced by these learners during this transition. Her research utilises mixed-methodology studies, including grade analysis and qualitative exploration of the lived experiences of these vocational learners. Through iterative participatory action research cycles, her study develops a support framework incorporating scaffolding strategies to bridge the gap between vocational learning and postgraduate education. The research highlights the importance of institutional and technological support in addressing systemic barriers and fostering more inclusive pathways to postgraduate education. These findings have the potential to enhance access to postgraduate studies and improve the career trajectories of healthcare professionals.

Supervisor: Dr C Cunningham (Public Health)

Rushil Harryparsad
Thesis Title: *Investigating the effects of contraceptive use on inflammation in the female genital tract*

Rushil Harryparsad completed his undergraduate studies at the University of Kwa-Zulu Natal. He then pursued an Honours degree in Medical Microbiology at the Nelson R Mandela School of Medicine, University of KwaZulu-Natal, before moving to UCT to complete his master's degree in clinical sciences and Immunology.

Rushil Harryparsad's thesis investigates biological changes in the female genital tract caused by contraceptive use that may impact sexually transmitted infections (STI), including HIV, acquisition. His study included women enrolled in three contraceptive clinical trials in South Africa, Brazil and Dominican Republic. He found that the levonorgestrel implant, copper intrauterine device (IUD) and depot medroxyprogesterone acetate injectable (DMPA-IM) did not significantly impact STI acquisition. There were however changes in proportions of potential HIV target cells and concentrations of immune mediators previously associated with HIV acquisition in the copper IUD and DMPA-IM arms. In a clinical trial investigating the impact of lower doses of MPA and comparing these changes to pre-contraception menstrual cycle phase, Rushil Harryparsad shows that inflammatory markers are higher after contraceptive initiation compared to the luteal, but not follicular, phase. These findings contribute to growing knowledge of the effects of contraceptives on biological factors that may influence susceptibility to infection.

Supervisor: Dr C Riou (Pathology)
Co-supervisors: Dr L Masson (Burnet Institute); Dr R Bunjun (Pathology); Dr J Deese (Pfizer, inc.)

Julian Hövelmann
Thesis Title: *Profiling of patients with peripartum cardiomyopathy*

Julian Hoevelmann studied Medicine at Hannover Medical School (MHH) in Germany and at UCT. Since 2020 he has worked as a registrar in Internal Medicine and Cardiology at the Saarland University Hospital in Homburg, Germany. In 2021 he started his PhD at the Cape Heart Institute, Faculty of Health Sciences.

Julian Hoevelmann's thesis focuses on profiling of patients with peripartum cardiomyopathy (PPCM). PPCM is a pregnancy-associated form of cardiomyopathy in which women towards the end of pregnancy or in the first months postpartum present with heart failure. He conducted four clinical studies on women with PPCM to evaluate their outcomes globally, understand their burden of arrhythmias, characterise the role of inflammation in the pathogenesis and study the adherence to heart failure therapy.

Supervisor: Professor K Sliwa-Hahnle (Medicine)
Co-supervisor: Dr C Viljoen (Medicine)

Meagan Mathilda Miché Jacobs-Alfred
Thesis Title: *Perceptions and experiences of skin lighteners in Cape Town*

Meagan Jacobs-Alfred graduated from the University of the Free State with a B.Soc.Sc. and an M.Soc.Sc. in research psychology. She enrolled in the UCT School of Public Health and Family Medicine in 2017 to pursue a PhD.

Meagan Jacobs-Alfred's thesis is centres on the perspectives and encounters of skin lightening users and cream service providers in Cape Town, South Africa. She also looks into the

reasons that encourage the use of skin whitening products and, in turn, the consequences those products have on the user. Finally, she examines the efficiency of skin-lightening regulations, particularly with regard to marketing and the influence they have on consumerism. Findings indicate that the use of skin-lightening products is mostly influenced by colourism, dermatological conditions, celebrity endorsements, and media promotion. Moreover, there are positive and negative outcomes to using skin-whitening creams, with the latter being more common and the former having health repercussions. Finally, the enforcement of policies led to the development of covert marketing strategies and the growth of the illegal market. The study's conclusions will be helpful in implementing legislation pertaining to skin-lightening cosmetics.

Supervisor: Associate Professor C Colvin (Public Health)
Co-supervisor: Dr S Cooper (Public Health and the South African Medical Research Council)

Khumbo Ted Jere
Thesis Title: *Obstetric fistula in Malawi: preparedness for prevention and management of obstetric fistula*

Khumbo Jere, a urogynaecology subspecialist and Fellow of the Colleges of Medicine of South Africa, earned his MMed and Fellowship at UCT. In 2022, he joined UCT's Division of Global Surgery to research innovative, systems-based solutions for maternal morbidity in low-resource settings.

Khumbo Jere's thesis examines Malawi's preparedness to prevent and manage obstetric fistula, a debilitating childbirth injury causing lifelong incontinence and social exclusion. Using the Thaddeus and Maine Three Delays Model, he applies a mixed-methods convergence approach integrating geospatial analysis, national survey data, and a decade of surgical audit records. His findings reveal the combined impact of delayed care-seeking, limited physical access to surgical services, and under-resourced health facilities. Despite high antenatal care attendance, disparities in quality intrapartum care and equitable surgical access persist, disproportionately affecting rural women. The study's recommendations—decentralised surgical hubs, targeted workforce retention, and community-level awareness—directly support the Malawi National Obstetric Fistula Strategy (2023–2030). By merging clinical expertise with spatial and policy analysis, this research provides an evidence-based roadmap for reducing maternal morbidity in resource-limited settings and advancing equity in global surgery.

Supervisor: Professor S Maswime (Surgery)
Co-supervisor: Professor A Adelowo (Massachusetts University)

Precious Ngwalero Katundu
Thesis Title: *Investigating the relationship between plasma and intracellular concentrations of bedaquiline and its metabolite N-desmethyl bedaquiline (M2) in drug resistant-TB patients with and without HIV infection in South Africa*

Precious Ngwalero completed her BSc. in Pharmacy (Hons) at the College of Medicine, University of Malawi. In 2013, she joined the Division of Clinical Pharmacology at UCT to pursue her MSc in Clinical Pharmacology. Later, in November 2016, she enrolled in a PhD program.

Precious Ngwalero's thesis focuses on the development and validation of bioanalytical methods in accordance with FDA and EMA guidelines to measure intracellular and protein-unbound concentrations of the Tuberculosis drug bedaquiline and its metabolite, M2. The study also includes the measurement of plasma protein-bound bedaquiline. The intracellular quantification of bedaquiline and M2 concentrations is required, as Mycobacterium tuberculosis is an intracellular pathogen. This first-time investigation of intracellular bedaquiline and M2 provides significant insights into their cellular pharmacokinetics and helps characterise their relationship with plasma concentrations, particularly in the treatment of rifampicin-resistant tuberculosis under the PROBeX study. The method for quantifying unbound bedaquiline and M2 in human plasma has laid the groundwork for further research into similar highly protein-bound and lipophilic drugs.

Supervisor: Professor L Wiesner (Medicine)
Co-supervisor: Professor H Mcllleron (Medicine)

Gerard Aime Kenfack Teponnou
Thesis Title: *Development of novel bioanalytical assays and an objective adherence measure of key second-line tuberculosis drugs*

Gerard Kenfack Teponnou completed his BSc Honours in Biotechnology and MSc in Pharmaceutical Science at the University of the Western Cape. In 2017, he joined the Division of Clinical Pharmacology, conducting advanced research in drug metabolism and pharmacokinetics. He started his PhD in clinical studies in 2020.

Gerard Kenfack Teponnou's thesis involves the development and validation of a multiplex assay to simultaneously measure critical second-line tuberculosis medications—bedaquiline and its metabolite N-desmethyl bedaquiline, clofazimine, levofloxacin, and linezolid—in dried blood spots. This innovative approach enables drug concentration measurement using a single blood drop, providing a more user-friendly and cost-effective tool to accurately determine drug exposure compared to the conventional therapeutic drug monitoring using plasma samples. The validated multiplex method has been successfully compared with established plasma methods and applied to clinical trials, including BEAT-TB (Building Evidence for Advancing New Treatment of Tuberculosis), SHIFT-TB (Short-course Oral Regimen for Resistant TB), and OASIS (Optimizing Adherence Support - Inspiring Success).

Supervisor: Professor L Wiesner (Medicine)
Co-supervisors: Emeritus Professor G Maartens (Medicine); Dr. R Court (Medicine)

Sadiyah Malek
Thesis Title: *Assessing epiphyseal union for age estimation in South African female sub-adults using Low Dose X-Rays (LODOX®)*

Sadiyah Malek started her UCT journey in 2016, with a BSc in Biochemistry, Human Anatomy and Physiology. Since then, she has obtained a BSc (Hons) in Clinical Anatomy and an MSc (Med) in Biological Anthropology. She began full-time study towards her PhD in Biological Anthropology in 2022.

Epiphyseal union is the process of bone sub-units fusing together. Its timing is predictable and is commonly used to estimate age. However, popular methods are of international origin and inaccurate for South Africans. Additionally, females are underrepresented in existing research. Sadiyah Malek's research addresses the challenge of accurately estimating age of South African female children using their bones. She observed epiphyseal union of major joints in 2 444 full-body X-rays of South African females aged 6 to 24 years, from Cape Town. She found that the order of epiphyseal union across the skeleton is consistent globally, but the ages/timing when this occurs in South African females differs significantly from South African males and international females. Her results provide the first comprehensive, population-specific dataset for skeletal growth in South African females. The methods she employs has local forensic and clinical applications and highlights the need for population-specific data in diverse populations.

Supervisor: Professor V Gibbon (Human Biology)
Co-supervisor: Dr K Lakha (National Prosecuting Authority)

Buyisile Goodnature Mkhize
Thesis Title: *Exposure of drug-resistant tuberculosis drugs in breast milk*

Buyisile Mkhize completed her MPhil in Clinical Pharmacology at UCT in 2019 and commenced her PhD studies later that year.

Buyisile Mkhize's thesis focuses on the development and validation of robust bioanalytical assays for the quantification of second-line anti-tuberculosis drugs – bedaquiline and delamanid (including their active metabolites), clofazimine, linezolid, levofloxacin, and moxifloxacin – in breast milk. These assays were successfully applied to the analysis of clinical samples from breastfeeding women undergoing treatment for drug-resistant tuberculosis. The resulting data contribute to a better understanding of the pharmacokinetics of these drugs in lactating mothers and provide critical insights into potential drug exposure in breastfed infants. This work addresses a critical knowledge gap in tuberculosis pharmacotherapy during lactation and has implications for optimizing maternal treatment while minimizing risk to the infant.

Supervisor: Professor L Wiesner (Medicine)
Co-supervisors: Dr R Court (Medicine); Dr S Castel (Medicine); Mr A Joubert (Medicine)

Mirriam Sinethemba Mkhize
Thesis Title: *Addressing the mental health needs of school-going adolescents aged 10-14 years old in the Western Cape province of South Africa*

Mirriam Mkhize is a social worker who completed her Bachelor of Social Work at UCT and a master's degree from the University of Kwa-Zulu Natal. She commenced her full-time PhD studies in 2021 as a Sue Struengmann Initiative fellow at the Alan J. Flisher Centre for Public Mental Health.

Mirriam Mkhize's thesis addresses the mental health needs of school-going adolescents aged 10 to 14 years in the Western Cape Province of South Africa. This research examined the prevalence and factors associated with depression and anxiety among young adolescents, evaluated the psychometric properties of screening tools in low-resource school contexts, and assessed the feasibility and acceptability of a co-adapted World Health Organization (WHO) Early Adolescent Skills for Emotions (EASE) intervention. The study contributes to the development of contextually adapted, scalable, and evidence-based strategies to support adolescent mental health promotion and prevention in resource-constrained school settings.

Supervisor: Professor K Sorsdahl (Psychiatry and Mental Health)
Co-supervisor: Associate Professor C van der Westhuizen (Psychiatry and Mental Health)

Pheposadi Lekubu Mogoba
Thesis Title: *Evaluating the implementation process of a multicomponent intervention to improve ART adherence among adolescents and young adults living with HIV (AYAHIV)*

Pheposadi Mogoba has a BSc (Hons) in Biochemistry from Limpopo University and a Master of Public Health qualification in Epidemiology and Biostatistics from UCT. In 2020, she began her full-time PhD studies as a student in the Division of Epidemiology and Biostatistics in the School of Public Health.

Pheposadi Mogoba's thesis examines the implementation of a multicomponent antiretroviral therapy (ART) adherence intervention that was developed to improve HIV outcomes among the youth in Nampula, Northern Mozambique. Her work offers valuable insights into why promising interventions often fail in resource-limited settings. Applying tools from implementation science, she assesses how successfully the CombinADO intervention was delivered within HIV care services. She uses mixed methods to capture intervention perspectives from healthcare providers and the youth who engaged with the intervention in health facilities. Her work highlights the need for ART adherence interventions that address patient needs while aligning with the capacities of resource-constrained health systems, particularly with respect to human resources and structural factors. It also demonstrates the relevance of implementation research in low-resource settings to understand how to implement new health care interventions effectively at scale.

Supervisor: Professor L Myer (Public Health)

Brandon Dean Murugan
Thesis Title: *Proteomic characterisation of HIV-Tat associated degeneration at various stages of neuronal development*

Brandon Murugan completed his BSc and BSc (Hons) qualifications at UKZN in 2008, followed by an MSc at UCT. He then began his PhD in the Department of Integrative Biomedical Sciences in 2015.

Brandon Murugan's thesis assesses the impact of the HIV-Tat viral protein on a cell culture model of neuronal development, with the end goal of understanding the impact on HIV exposure in utero. Advanced, high resolution proteomic mass spectroscopy was used to understand the signalling dynamics in neuronal cells at varying stages of development. The observed signalling changes helped characterise the effects of HIV-Tat on neurons during their differentiation. Hence, this work not only contributes to increased understanding of the molecular origin of neurological dysfunction observed in children exposed to HIV during early development but also provides new hypotheses on possible future mitigation strategies.

Supervisor: *Professor JM Blackburn (Integrative Biomedical Sciences)*

Shane Naidoo
Thesis Title: *The prevalence of health conditions and levels of physical activity of older people in South Africa: an intervention study*

Shane Naidoo earned a BSc in Physiotherapy from the University of KwaZulu-Natal (1999) and thereafter a Master's in Physiotherapy from UCT (2021), exploring adolescent physical fitness. In 2022, he commenced his PhD, investigating the potential of physical activity to mitigate/manage non-communicable diseases (NCDs) and/or its risk factors among older people.

Shane Naidoo's thesis responds to the growing burden of NCDs among older people globally. The study followed a four-phase design, each phase informed and building on the previous. Phase one comprises a scoping review of physical activity interventions implemented to address NCD risk factors in older people across Sub-Saharan Africa. Phase two involves a cross-sectional analysis of 396 South African residents in urban and rural old age homes to identify NCD risk factors. In phase three, a context-specific physical activity intervention was co-designed using empirical evidence and insights from key community stakeholders. Phase four saw the community-led intervention implemented and evaluated over 12-weeks, which resulted in significant improvement of NCD risk factors. The findings underscore the feasibility and impact of community-driven models and advocate for their integration into aged care policies. The intervention presents a practical solution for addressing NCD prevalence and promoting healthy ageing, particularly in resource-limited settings.

Supervisor: Professor N Naidoo (Health and Rehabilitation Sciences)

Ngaka John Nchejane
Thesis Title: *Investigating the effects of intramyocardial biomaterial injectates on regional tissue and cellular mechanics determining the structure of the infarct scar*

Ngaka Nchejane holds a Bachelor of Science with Education in Mathematics and Physics from the National University of Lesotho, a Postgraduate Diploma in Mathematical Sciences from the African Institute for Mathematical Sciences, South Africa, and a Master of Science in Mathematical Modelling in Engineering from the University of L'Aquila, Italy.

Ngaka Nchejane's thesis investigates the mechanics of cardiac fibroblasts and myofibroblasts in a heart following myocardial infarction and how biomaterial delivered to the infarcted region affects the mechanics of these cells responsible for collagen production during infarct scar development. He developed,from micro-computed tomography image data of an infarcted rat heart with biomaterial injectate, multi-scale subject-specific computational finite element models representing the left and right ventricles at organ and tissue length scale and six regions in the infarct with dispersed biomaterial and cardiac cells with microstructural details. Combining these models, he found that the therapeutic biomaterial considerably changes the deformation and orientation of the resident cardiac fibroblasts in the infarct. Since collagen orientation depends on the orientation of fibroblasts, the outcomes offer the potential for informing the use of biomaterial injectates to obtain infarct scars that are less obstructive for cardiac function after a heart attack.

Supervisor: Professor T Franz (Human Biology)
Co-supervisors: Dr KL Sack (Human Biology); Professor NH Davies (Surgery)

Dorothy Chiwoniso Nyemba
Thesis Title: *Sexually transmitted infections in pregnancy: Is there evidence to support diagnostic testing of curable STIs in routine antenatal care in South Africa?*

Dorothy Nyemba holds a BSc degree in Mathematics and Statistics from the University of Zimbabwe, BSc Honors in Statistical Sciences from the University of the Western Cape and an MPH from UCT.

Dorothy Nyemba's thesis focuses on sexually transmitted infections (STIs) in pregnancy, revealing a notably high prevalence of curable STIs among pregnant women, particularly in South Africa. This thesis provides evidence of the association between positive diagnosis with curable STI during pregnancy and prevalence of adverse pregnancy outcomes. Further investigation demonstrates a four-fold increase in the odds of experiencing a pregnancy loss (miscarriage or stillbirth) among those with untreated curable STIs. The thesis also models the implementation of point of care diagnosis of curable STIs in antenatal care compared to syndromic management. The modelling shows a reduction in adverse pregnancy and birth outcomes, maternal HIV acquisition and vertical HIV transmission. These findings highlight urgent need to integrate point-

of-care diagnosis for curable STIs into antenatal care in South Africa. Such integration has potential to alleviate the burden of adverse pregnancy outcomes and contribute significantly to the goal of eliminating vertical HIV transmission.

Supervisor: Professor L Myer (Public Health)
Co-supervisors: Associate Professor D Joseph-Davey (Public Health), Associate Professor L Johnson (Public Health)

Nina Radzey
Thesis Title: *The impact of contraceptives on the female genital tract metaproteome in a randomized control trial of South African women*

Nina Radzey completed her BSc in Microbiology and Biochemistry at Rhodes University. She then pursued her BSc Honours in Infectious Diseases and Immunology and her MSc in Medical Virology at UCT, beginning full-time study towards her PhD in 2020.

Nina Radzey's thesis investigates the impact of three contraceptives, the copper intrauterine device (IUD), the injectable depot medroxyprogesterone acetate (DMPA-IM), and the levonorgestrel (LNG) implant on the female genital tract (FGT) metaproteome in South African women. Her work showed that DMPA-IM and LNG implant use were not linked to significant changes in the vaginal metaproteome following contraceptive initiation, although the former tended to dampen host immune responses, and the latter associated with favourable shifts in the vaginal microbiome. Women with higher serum contraceptive hormone levels had higher genital inflammatory markers, suggesting that individual level differences in hormone metabolism may impact contraceptive-associated immune changes. Copper IUD use associated with increased host immune responses, complement activation, altered epithelial barrier function, and unfavourable microbiome shifts after contraceptive initiation. These immune and microbiome changes have been linked to increased risk of sexually transmitted infection (STI), including HIV, and adverse reproductive outcomes, warranting further investigation.

Supervisor: Professor J Blackburn (Integrative Biomedical Sciences)
Co-supervisors: Dr L Masson (Burnet Institute); Dr T Ganief (Integrative Biomedical Sciences)

Yashara Ryan
Thesis Title: *4β-hydroxycholesterol-to-cholesterol ratio as an endogenous biomarker in human plasma to determine treatment effects of induction and inhibition of CYP3A4 enzyme activity*

Yashara Ryan joined the Division of Clinical Pharmacology for her BMed Sci (Hons) degree in 2018, after completing a BSc undergraduate degree at Stellenbosch University. She began her MSc in 2019 and later upgraded to a PhD in 2023. She has worked part-time for the division during her studies.

Yashara Ryan's thesis focuses on the development and validation of a bioanalytical method for the determination of 4β-hydroxycholesterol (4β-OHC) in human plasma, and its use as a biomarker, alone and as a ratio with cholesterol concentrations (4β-OHC/cholesterol), for CYP3A4/5 enzyme activity. The method was optimized and validated according to current guidelines. The method uses a surrogate analyte (deuterated 4β-OHC) to mitigate challenges of the endogenous presence of 4β-OHC, and accounts for the difference in ionization efficiency between the surrogate analyte and endogenous 4β-OHC. Cholesterol concentrations were determined at the National Health Laboratory. The method was successfully applied to patient samples from three clinical studies. Unadjusted 4β-OHC concentrations and 4β-OHC/cholesterol ratios were used for multi-level mixed effects models to describe treatment effects on CYP3A4/5 activity. The findings show the utility of the method and the support of 4β-OHC and 4β-OHC/cholesterol as a biomarker for drug-drug interactions in a clinical setting.

Supervisor: Professor L Wiesner (Medicine)
Co-supervisor: Professor H Mcllleron (Medicine)

Nkgaphe Tebatjo Tsebesebe
Thesis Title: *Development of Arduino and machine learning based point-of-care system for medical applications*

Nkgaphe Tsebesebe holds a BSc, BSc (Hons) and MSc qualifications from University of Limpopo and an MSc from the University of the Western Cape in partnership with the African Institute of Mathematical Sciences.

Nkgaphe Tsebesebe's thesis focuses on developing a low-cost, AI-powered point-of-care diagnostic device for tuberculosis detection using loop-mediated isothermal amplification (TB-LAMP). His research introduced a microcontroller-based, 3D-printed diagnostic device integrating automated sample analysis through machine learning and deep learning algorithms, including a novel synthetic data generation approach to overcome dataset scarcity. The system demonstrated high diagnostic accuracy and sensitivity, performed reliably in field conditions, and represents a major advancement in healthcare innovation for resource-limited communities. His work delivers a transformative solution for accessible tuberculosis screening in under-resourced settings, making a substantial contribution to global efforts to end Tuberculosis.

Supervisor: Professor S Sivarasu (Human Biology)
Co-supervisors: Professor P Mthunzi-Kufa (Photonics Centre, University of South Africa); Dr. S Ndlovu (Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), Biophotonics Group); Dr. K Mpofu (Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), Biophotonics Group)

Tshilidzi Hulisani Van Der Lecq
Thesis Title: *The epidemiology of retinopathy of prematurity in South Africa*

Tshilidzi van der Lecq obtained her MBChB from UCT in 2007 and her specialist training and Master of Medicine in Ophthalmology at Sefako Makgatho Health Sciences University in 2015. Today, she becomes the first black South African Ophthalmologist to be awarded a PhD.

Tshilidzi van der Lecq's thesis answers key knowledge gaps in the epidemiology of retinopathy of prematurity (ROP) in South Africa. This condition is a preventable cause of blindness in infants who are born premature and is detected by screening. She developed the first regional ROP register in Sub-Saharan Africa, which includes the data of infants screened within the Cape Town Metropole. In analysing this data, she has provided the most accurate estimation of the number of infants that develop and require treatment for ROP. She was also able to monitor timeliness of screening and identify significant risk factors. Importantly, she identified that a large number of infants do not complete screening in whom the opportunity to provide treatment may have been missed. Data from her study will enable the first evidence-based revision of South Africa's national guidelines with the goal of reducing blindness in premature South African children.

Supervisor: Professor R Muloiwa (Paediatrics and Child Health)
Co-supervisors: Professor G Holmström (Surgical Sciences, Ophthalmology, Uppsala University); Dr N Rhoda (Paediatrics and Child Health)

Anna Margaretha Margaretha Van Der Walt
Thesis Title: *The jointcare study: does owner pain education reduce pain in dogs with OA?*

Anna van der Walt holds a BSc in Physiotherapy from the University of Pretoria, South Africa, and an MSc in Veterinary Physiotherapy from the University of the Witwatersrand, South Africa. She began her PhD in the Department of Anaesthesia and Perioperative Medicine at UCT in 2022.

Anna van der Walt's thesis focuses on improving the management of chronic osteoarthritis pain in dogs by targeting modifiable caregiver factors through a structured, owner-focused pain education intervention, The JointCare Programme. Developed using an intervention mapping approach, the programme aimed to enhance owner pain literacy, reduce fear of pain, and strengthen pain self-efficacy. A mixed-methods pilot feasibility trial demonstrated significant improvements in dog pain severity and interference, alongside meaningful changes in owner pain beliefs and care behaviours. Qualitative findings highlighted owners' increased confidence, earlier pain recognition, and greater engagement in management strategies. This study provides preliminary evidence that empowering owners through education can improve dogs' adaptation to chronic osteoarthritis pain, with potential for integration into veterinary practice as a scalable, cost-effective complement to standard care.

Supervisor: Professor R Parker (Anaesthesia and Perioperative Medicine)

Avril Walters
Thesis Title: *Neurons as potential immune modulators during central nervous system tuberculosis*

Avril Walters completed his BSc and BSc (Hons) qualifications at Stellenbosch University and completed his MSc at UCT in 2017. He subsequently registered for a full-time PhD in the Division of Immunology.

Avril Walters' thesis focuses on the potential of neurons to influence central nervous system immune responses during central nervous system tuberculosis (CNS-TB). He assessed the transcriptional changes that occurs in neurons in response to tuberculosis infection and further measured the concentration of various chemokines and cytokines known to influence immune cell activity. Moreover, he was able to use a novel humanised mouse model approach to studying CNS-TB which can contribute to how human immune responses are studied. This study establishes a foundation on which to build future translational efforts to limit M. tuberculosis infection, reduce neuronal sequelae and possibly mortality and morbidity.

Supervisor: Professor M Jacobs (Pathology)
Co-supervisors: Dr NJ Hsu (Pathology); Dr R Keeton (Pathology)

Chesney Fenella Ward-Smith
Thesis Title: *An exploration of emotion regulation and mental health among older South African adolescents from low-income settings*

Chesney Ward-Smith holds a B.Soc. Sci. from UCT, an interdisciplinary MEd in Education/Ecopsychology from Rhodes University, and an MA in Clinical Psychology from Stellenbosch University. She works at the intersection of clinical, eco-, and community psychology, supporting youth and promoting personal, social, and environmental transformation in South Africa.

Adolescents in low-income South African communities experience high depression and anxiety levels, often with limited mental health resources. Chesney Ward-Smith's thesis explores the connection between emotion regulation and mental health challenges among adolescents and evaluated the Difficulties in Emotion Regulation (DERS-16) screening tool for this demographic. It also assessed the feasibility and acceptability of the #FeelThinkMove Programme—a school-based intervention integrating

emotion regulation skills with physical activity. Adolescents reported reduced anxiety, depression, and emotional dysregulation symptoms post programme. They also noted improved stress management, mood, and anger control as they applied learned skills in daily life. Programme facilitators valued the training and support, contributing to successful implementation. These findings underscore the importance of emotion regulation in promoting adolescent mental health, suggesting that the #FeelThinkMove Programme holds therapeutic promise. To understand its long-term effects, further research, including conducting a randomized controlled trial, is recommended.

Supervisor: Professor K Sorsdahl (Psychiatry and Mental Health)
Co-supervisor: Associate Professor C van der Westhuizen (Psychiatry and Mental Health)

Rochelle Woudberg
Thesis Title: *The burden of leukemia in South Africa: epidemiological trends, economic impact, and priority setting*

Rochelle Woudberg holds a BHSc in Medical Laboratory Sciences from CPUT, an MSc in Biomedical Engineering from UCT, and begun full-time study towards her PhD in 2023.

Rochelle Woudberg's thesis focuses on examining the burden of leukaemia in South Africa by analysing epidemiological trends, economic costs, and priority areas for healthcare resource allocation. She investigates leukaemia incidence and survival trends using national cancer registry data, models the economic impact of treatment and care, and evaluates the cost-effectiveness of current therapeutic strategies. Her research further integrates stakeholder perspectives to identify critical gaps in leukaemia services and to inform policy recommendations. By combining epidemiological analysis with economic modeling, her work provides evidence to guide priority setting for leukaemia care in South Africa.

Supervisor: Professor E Sinanovic (Public Health)

HISTORICAL SKETCH

Founded as the South African College (a boys' school that aimed to provide higher education as well) in 1829, the University was established as the University of Cape Town in 1918.

The early history was one of great expectations and hard times and it was not until the early years of the twentieth century that the University was developed into a fully-fledged tertiary institution. A significant and pioneering development in the 19th century was the admission of women as degree students in 1886, many years ahead of most universities in the world.

At the start of the 20th century the University incorporated the Diocesan College, the teacher training classes of the Normal College, the South African College of Music and the Cape Town Schools of Fine Art and Architecture.

The Medical School was established and in the 1920s the University began a partnership with the local health authority (now the Provincial Government's health department) that saw the Medical School move from the Hiddingh Campus and the Green Point Somerset Hospital to Observatory (the rest of UCT's Upper Campus moved from Hiddingh to its present site, on part of Cecil Rhodes' estate, in 1928). This partnership allowed for the construction of the first Groote Schuur Hospital on a University site. The partnership continues to this day and now involves not only Groote Schuur as a teaching hospital but Red Cross Children's Hospital, Valkenberg and a growing number of primary health care sites.

The period between the end of World War II and 1994 was marked by two themes. Firstly, the University recognised that if it was to be fully South African, it would have to move beyond academic non-segregation to be fully inclusive. It would have to face the consequential and increasing clashes with a government determined to legislate for segregation and enforce the doctrine of apartheid. And secondly, the University intended to transform into a leading research institution.

Before World War II, the University was largely a teaching university and its students were mostly undergraduates. The research undertaken was sporadic, though in some cases notable. A research committee was appointed for the first time in 1945. The next 75 years saw a great expansion of research and scholarly work such that the UCT of 2014 has a greater proportion of highly rated researchers and gains significantly more research grants and awards than any other South African University.

The 1980s and 1990s were characterized by the deliberate and planned transformation of the student body. This was aided by the establishment of the Academic Development Programme aimed at helping students from disadvantaged educational and social backgrounds to succeed and the desegregation of student residences. As a result, a student body that was 90% white in 1979, when UCT marked its 150th anniversary, is in 2014 more than 50% black. The total student enrolment of just above 26 000, includes international students drawn from over 100 countries, a significant proportion of which are from SADC states. Particular emphasis is placed on postgraduate studies and more than 20% of these students will be enrolled in master's and doctoral programmes. A growing number of postdoctoral fellows contribute substantially to the research endeavours and reputation of the University (UCT has more than a third of the total number of post docs in South Africa).

UCT continues to work towards its goal to be Africa's leading research university. Its success can be measured by the scope of study it offers and the calibre of its graduates.

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

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

Vice-Chancellor
Matlagolo Mosa Moshabela, MBChB *Natal* Dip in HIV Management (SA) *CMSA* MMed *Limpopo (MEDUNSA)* MSc *LSHTM* PhD *Witwatersrand* MASSAf

Chair of Council
Norman Martin Arendse SC, BA LLB *Cape Town* LLM *UCL*

President of Convocation
Yumna Moosa, MBChB *Cape Town* MMedSci PhD *KwaZulu Natal*

Deputy Vice-Chancellors
Brandon Ian Collier-Reed, PrEng BSc(Eng) MSc(Eng) PhD *Cape Town* FSAIMechE
Thokozani Majozi, BScEng MScEng *Natal* PhD *Manchester* CEng FIChemE Order of Mapungubwe: Bronze
Elelwani Ramugondo, BSc (Occupational Therapy) MSc (Occupational Therapy) PhD *Cape Town*

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

Chief Operating Officer
Richard John van Huyssteen (Acting), Project Management Dip *FTI* BSc *Nelson Mandela* HDE (PG) BCom(Hons) *Cape Town*

Deans of Faculties

Commerce:	Suki Lesley Goodman, BSocSc(Hons) MBusSc PhD *Cape Town*
Engineering & the Built Environment:	Aubrey Njema Mainza, BMinSC *UNZA* PhD *Cape Town*
Health Sciences:	Lionel Patrick Green-Thompson, DA FCA *CMSA* MBBCh MMed PhD *Witwatersrand*
Humanities:	Shose Kessi, PDBA *Witwatersrand* BA(Hons) *London* MSc PhD *LSE*
Law:	Mohamed Paleker, BA LLB LLM PhD *Cape Town* Attorney of the High Court
Science:	Hussein Suleman, MSc *Durban-Westville* PhD *Virginia Tech*

Dean of Higher Education Development
Kasturi Behari-Leak, BA(Hons) HDE BEd *Durban-Westville* MEd *Cape Town* PhD *Rhodes*

Director of the Graduate School of Business
Catherine Duggan, BA *Brown* PhD *Stanford*

YOU'RE A GRADUATE!

NOW STAY CONNECTED TO UCT!

Today does not mark the end of your journey with UCT, but the beginning of a new chapter in your lifelong relationship with your alma mater. We invite you, as a graduate, to join a vibrant global community of more than 200 000 alumni making an impact around the world.

We hope to stay connected as your journey continues - celebrating your milestones, sharing opportunities, and keeping you connected with classmates, mentors, and the university community.

To make sure you remain part of the UCT network, we just need one simple thing from you: please update your contact information.

Alternatively, send your updated contact information via email to alumni@uct.ac.za.

Other ways of staying connected

- Attend alumni events in your region
- Participate in the Convocation AGM
- Follow us on LinkedIn, Instagram, and Facebook
- Visit the Alumni Engagement team at the Development and Alumni Department
- Share your achievements with us at alumni@uct.ac.za

UCT's global network of alumni chapters, affinity groups, and volunteer networks provides opportunities to connect, collaborate, network, and support your alma mater. Contact our team to get involved locally or internationally:

SOUTH AFRICA
Lu Nteya: lu.nteya@uct.ac.za
Cindy De Oliveira: cindy.deoliveira@uct.ac.za
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AUSTRALIA
Jillian Shiels: jillian.shiels@uct.ac.za

We look forward to connecting with you as alumni of UCT.

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- Voluntary, takes 7 mins
- Helps current students and faculties with world-of- work insights

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