Faculty of Health Sciences
Annual Report
2013

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A.  DEAN’S DIVISION

1.  Undergraduate Medicine Programme Management

Prof PPC Nel
051 401 2939
nelppc@ufs.ac.za

The restructuring of the MBChB curriculum in Phase is well underway. The envisioned date for implementation of the changes is 2016. This new approach in respect of community service learning should make a positive contribution to integration and address shortcomings. This should ensure training of high quality. The outcomes of the new modules are currently being compiled.

The development and implementation of a Simulation Centre for the School of Medicine is well underway.

The availability of laptop computers to all students in semester 2 was implemented in 2013 and will henceforth be rolled every year.

The learning plan of the Learning Development Programme (LDP) was reviewed extensively and changes made where necessary. Undergoing the LDP should effectively address backlogs in school training and promote future student learning. Students who undergo the LDP should be better equipped in respect of basic language, learning and science skills, as required for the successful completion of the MBChB programme. The progress of students who had undergone the LDP and who had again been admitted to the MBChB programme is continually monitored.

The Interactive Classroom Evaluation System (CPS) will furthermore be implemented and should bring a saving in manpower, as well as make a positive contribution to continuous assessment, self-reflection, attendance control and quality assurance in the programme. Training in respect of the optimal usage of the system will still be a priority.

New guidelines and procedures will be compiled to be in line with the new UFS Policy Documents, and existing documents will be reviewed. Continuous quality assurance and effective communication of information to grass roots level must receive attention. Quality assurance in the School of Medicine will still be of high priority.

The presentation of General Skills MEA153 in electronic format is a highlight and the results will be closely monitored to initiate further developments in this area. The Clinical Skills are available in e-learning format to facilitate prior learning and revision of procedures.

The Faculty Of Health Sciences' image to the outside is determined largely by the quality of its undergraduate medical training; thus we strive to, by means of effective management, to render good service and make a positive contribution to the training of excellent “Kovsie doctors” who are well-equipped for the profession and who carry the good image of the Faculty to the world.
B. SCHOOL FOR ALLIED HEALTH PROFESSIONS

1. Nutrition and Dietetics

Dr R Lategan
051 401 2894 / 3314
nutrition@ufs.ac.za

At undergraduate level, a 100% pass rate was achieved for first- and third-year students and the prize for the best final-year student in the School for Allied Health Professions was awarded to a dietetics student at the annual prize function.

Module registrations were completed for all under- and postgraduate modules and the therapeutic nutrition modules and toolkit for third-year students were re-designed to fit into the new curriculum to be implemented during 2014. Final-year students were exposed to new trends in food systems and administration during a food service tour in the Bloemfontein area, and the food service management training facilities were extended to include a private food service. Eight community projects were completed by fourth-year students and first- and second-year students were involved in four community projects.

The Department of Nutrition and Dietetics is building strong academic and research relationships with universities abroad. Prof J Ilich from the Department of Food Science and Exercise at Florida State University, USA, presented two invitation lectures at the Faculty of Health Sciences, one in Kimberley and one in Mpumalanga. Collaboration agreements between the department and Appalachian State University, North Carolina, USA; Bern, Switzerland; and the KAHO Sint-Lieven Hogeschool in Gent, Belgium, also exist, with two students from Belgium spending a three-month period in the department during the year.

Community service and service learning activities continued in the rural areas of Botshabelo and urban households of Phase 9, providing a valuable dietetic service in these areas. A successful Mandela Month project was held in the form of a health service exhibition in Mimosa Mall in Bloemfontein in partnership with other departments in the Faculty of Health Sciences. The department collaborated for the second year with the Department of Paediatrics to present a weekend camp at Emoya Estate, Bloemfontein, on 12-14 April to support, train and empower children with diabetes and provide practical experience in food service management and diabetes management to third and fourth year students.

In an effort to increase student numbers, the department combined a practical assignment of third-year students to prepare a breakfast for career counsellors as part of the Faculty’s marketing initiative. The department also participated in the exhibitions at the University’s open day and interacted with learners through an interactive exhibition at the school’s Top 10 function. The department presented their own open day during October and participated at the Rotary Club Career Day at Eunice Girls’ High School and the career day of Kgato Primary School.
2. **Occupational Therapy**

*Ms A van Jaarsveld*

*051 401 3078*

*gnalsavj@ufs.ac.za*

The Department kicked off this year with a positive accreditation report from the South African Health Professions Board (HPCSA).

Our undergraduate students maintained their performance history. During this year, five master’s degrees were conferred – the most in one year in the Department’s history – as well as the first PhD in Occupational Therapy to Dr Dorothy Russell.

During 2013 our third-year students presented projects for a week in the Southern Free State in the communities there, for the second consecutive year. From student reflections and feedback from the communities, this remains a very valuable two-way experience; the students who experience learning in the community, but also the community who benefits from the well-planned projects where the people and their activities stand central. Students experience first-hand the needs of the people in rural environments as well as their challenges in respect of activity participation.

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3. **Optometry**

*Prof TA Rasengane*

*051 405 2534*

*rasengata@fshealth.gov.za*

In 2013 the new B Optometry curriculum was implemented and 32 students were enrolled. All first-year students completed the Level 1 St Johns first aid course. Four of the first-year students were part of the group of students who went abroad in the Leadership for Change programme of the Vice-Chancellor.

The department successfully completed its 2013 academic year with 19 students out of 20 graduating with a B Optometry degree. The department continues to receive good reviews from optical companies and optometrists who have employed our graduates. Our graduates are being employed nationally and also internationally, namely Australia, Trinidad and Tobago.

Another event of 2013 was the accreditation visit by the Professional Board of Optometry and Dispensing Opticians of the Health Professions Council of South Africa (HPCSA).

The department encourages interdisciplinary approach and this is shown by the good working relationship between Optometry, Ophthalmology, Family Medicine, Occupational Therapy and Psychology departments at the hospital. This working relationship adds value to the patients as they receive comprehensive health care due to good interdepartmental referral system. The students gained more knowledge through the workshops held by the departments of Ophthalmology and Family Medicine.

The enrolment in Optometry has improved in terms of diversity. This year saw the enrolment of 10 black and Indian students in the first year and also more male students in the first year.
of study. It is important for the department to focus also on these priority groups in order to address the imbalance.

Third and fourth years of study are clinical years, where theory and practical sessions are integrated. The Optometry students are exposed to diverse patients, as the department operates within the public academic hospital, which is a big clinical advantage.

The department applies different teaching and learning strategies to enhance the learning process. Blackboard is utilised as a part of the teaching/learning tool and all the practical sessions are interactive. There is a yearly review of the curriculum in order to identify the gaps and also improve the programme delivery and output. Staff members routinely attended the staff skills development seminars and workshops to keep abreast with the new teaching strategies.

School vision screenings were successfully conducted at Bloemfontein preschools and high schools. Optometry students continue to learn and provide eye care services under the guidance of optometrists in the Phelophepha Health Train. The department has good relationship with the South African branch of the Special Olympics eye care. The department participated in the Special Olympics screening and examination outreach at Pholoho School.

The third-year students conducted their Community Service Learning projects at Lekholong, Hodisa, Kagisho and Vulamasango high schools. The theme of the community projects was “Eye Care in High Schools”. The primary focus of this project venture was eye care, empowerment and sustainable service delivery.

The department wishes to recruit four full time professional staff and three clinical optometrists to improve service delivery, teaching and the research output of the department.

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4. **Physiotherapy**

*Me R Barnes*

051 401 3289

barnesry@ufs.ac.za

During the annual Comrades Marathon, the final-year students of the Department were appointed as the group with the best team spirit during the strapping competition, where all university teams where Physiotherapy is presented took part.

As various personnel members are currently busy with further studies in Physiotherapy, or busy writing research articles and/or publications, it is the department’s expectations in respect of personnel achievement to support them in the successful completion of their studies and publications. Simulation opportunities will be expanded within the Department, as well as interprofessional training sessions.

The second-year students of the Department took the residents of the Jean Webber Home to the Bloemfontein Zoo for a braai as part of their community service project. Both students and residents enjoyed the expedition.
3. SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

1. Health Sciences Education

Prof MM Nel
051 405 3092
nelmm@ufs.ac.za

In 2013, the academic activities of the Division of Health Sciences Education covered mainly six important aspects, namely staff development sessions, the Health Professions Education (HPE) programme, student support, student development, education innovation and research.

Staff development and teaching support in the Faculty are priority tasks in the division, and various staff development and training sessions were presented during 2013. An orientation course was presented for newly appointed lecturers in the Faculty, as well as various other workshops and short information/discussion meetings during lunch hours.

Several workshops as well as teaching development courses for registrars were held, and international presenters were also invited to present various lectures and workshops.

Academic support was provided to students in the Faculty of Health Sciences. Various opportunities were offered to students in the Faculty as far as student development and lifelong learning are concerned.

Educational input was given on the education committees and quality assurance committees of the three Schools of the Faculty, as well as the Programme Committee of the School of Medicine. Input was also given during other faculty and university committee meetings, and nationally.

The Division is instrumental in educational renewal, academic support and development in the Faculty, and plays a decisive role in the provision of perspectives on Health Sciences Education. The Division still plans to focus on staff development and support during 2014, specifically on teaching and learning. The emphasis will be on skills and knowledge needed to teach, assess and support students more effectively.

Special attention will also be given to academic support and development and academic counselling, guidance and related educational support services will be provided to all undergraduate and postgraduate students in the Faculty, with the aim to maximising the overall educational experience of our students and achievement of expected learning outcomes.

The master’s and doctoral programmes implemented in 2001 had a total student number of 32 in 2013. During the period 2002-2013, some 44 students had completed their studies. This programme, which was the first of its kind in Southern Africa, promises to make a valuable contribution to the development of one of the most valuable resources of the Faculty, namely the academic staff, and to ensure that the teaching and training role of lecturers are fully professionalised.

The supervision of the students that are currently doing their papers, dissertations and theses gives a new dimension to the activities of the division, and this research should also make a significant contribution to the enhancement of educational expertise in the field of health sciences education.
Liaison and collaboration with role players locally, nationally and internationally will be a priority. Communication, internal and external, will be promoted.

2. **Anaesthesiology**

*Prof BJS Diedericks*

051 405 3071
diedericksbjs@ufs.ac.za

Highlights in the department include:
- Expansion of simulation activities for both under- and postgraduate students.
- Pioneering work is continued with the continuation of the first trans-oesophageal echography applied workshops in South Africa, under the leadership of Dr EW Turton. We contribute to help other institutions to present such courses.
- Two successful DA courses.
- Interest from younger persons to make a career in the department. Two have been appointed as consultants and actively take part in academic activities.
- Solid participation at national and international level. At the PACSA 2014 congress the Department maintained a high profile.
- Progress and good results with renewal in under- and postgraduate training.

Registrar posts were increased, all filled with a waiting list and addition of two supernumerary posts filled with SADAC country candidates. Under- and postgraduate training continued successfully, with a large number of distinctions and high postgraduate average pass mark. Outreach included continuing support to improve anaesthesia for caesarean sections at Free State level 1 and 2 hospitals. As part of outreach, visits to satellite campus hospitals were made. Two Diplomas of Anaesthesia (DA) courses were provided, which benefited not only candidates who write the DA, but also doctors working in rural areas. Two doctors from Monapo were trained and passed the DA.

Further development and integration of satellite departments at Kimberley and Welkom took place. Further international networking was done and several international experts visited us, and participation in the World Federation of Societies of Anaesthesiologists activities took place. The Life Box project for South Africa was run by Dr EW Turton.

3. **Anatomical Pathology**

*Dr J Goedhals*

051 405 3050
gnmbjg@ufs.ac.za

Dr J Goedhals was the University of the Free State representative on the NHLS Research Trust Board of Trustees, while Prof CA Beukes was the Free State representative for the International Academy of Pathology, SA division.

Prof BD Middlecote was awarded the Arbor Vitae trophy for the best preclinical lecturer in September, and Ms V Necsulescu, medical technologist, won the regional NHLS Annual
Award for Excellence in Medical Technology. The Division of Cytology won an award for the Best Teamwork in a Department at the NHLS Annual Awards.

Prof C A Beukes, Head of Department, sadly passed away in September 2013. Dr J Goedhals was appointed as Head of Department and will assume duties on 1 January 2014.

4. Basic Medical Sciences

Dr S van Zyl
051 405 3555
gnfssvz@ufs.ac.za

The Department Basic Medical Sciences strives for quality education in all the programmes and modules where we are involved, as well as in the area of research. The Department continued with the strategic conference held in 2013, and various strategic planning sessions took place to ensure the alignment of strategic planning processes of the department with that of the School of Medicine, Faculty of Health Sciences and the University of the Free State. As part of the strategic planning process in the department, strategic issues were identified and allocated to the various committees in the department for further handling.

International epidemiology research studies in cooperation with the Rijks University Gröningen, The Netherlands, had continued, and interdisciplinary research AHA-FS group had concluded.

The department is proud of the expertise of workshop personnel, as well as the physical facilities for training purposes. Various workshops also took place during 2013. These included orthopaedics, otorhinolaryngology, cardiothoracic surgery, anaesthesiology and physiotherapy workshops.

Various continuous community service projects were launched this year. Soup and bread sales, as well as a Valentine’s project, was launched by personnel to raise funds. Donations of groceries and books were collected throughout the year for Yàde houses in the city. The two-weekly bread project in aid of the Dr Visser School continued this year, thus delivering 30 to 50 loaves every two weeks to the school, which is distributed to less fortunate families. School jerseys were also donated to less fortunate learners during the winter months, and the project concluded with a candle project, encompassing the donation of food parcels for less fortunate families over the Christmas period.

5. Biostatistics

Prof G Joubert
051 401 3117
gnbsgi@ufs.ac.za

The four staff members of the Department are involved in undergraduate teaching in the Schools of Medicine and Allied Health Professions. At postgraduate level, teaching is done to master’s students in Nursing, Family Medicine, Sports Medicine, Occupational Therapy, Nutrition and Dietetics, Optometry, Physiotherapy, and all newly registered registrars in the
School of Medicine. Lectures are also presented for postgraduate diploma students in Occupational Health.

As part of the statistical consultation service offered by the department, 150 new research projects emanating from the Faculty were handled during 2013. These were

- 46 undergraduate studies;
- 88 postgraduate studies; and
- 16 pure research projects.

In 2013, staff members were members of the evaluation committees of 53 postgraduate studies, of which 17 were from the School of Allied Health Professions, 15 from the School of Nursing, 9 from the School of Medicine and 12 in the HPE programme.

Involvement in the broader research community consists of reviewing of publications for a number of general medical or educational journals. Prof Joubert also acts as external moderator for research and biostatistics modules at other medical schools, and serves on the Grants Committee of the MRC.

6. Cardiology

Prof H du T Theron (Acting)
051 405 3390
gnkdh@ufs.ac.za

Responsibilities of the Department of Cardiology in the School of Medicine include:

- Teaching and training of under- and postgraduate students, registrars and fellows.
- Participation in the delivery of a tertiary cardiac care service in the Free State and Northern Cape.
- Facilitation of appropriate research in the field of Cardiology.

We are grateful for recognition regarding the continued TAVI programme.

The department of Cardiology forms an integral part of the undergraduate training programme in the Department of Internal Medicine, and is involved from the third- to the fifth-year MBChB programme. Both theoretical and practical training are given.

The registrars in the Department of Internal Medicine rotate through the Department of Cardiology, where they receive training in the treatment of acute as well as long-term cardiac problems. Special attention is paid to patients with complex cardiac problems.

Cardiology fellows are trained on a continual basis with specific emphasis in the management of acute life-threatening cardiological problems and interventional cardiology. We rely heavily on seminars and workshops arranged by private pharmaceutical companies.

Recently, efforts have been made to modernise and equip the department with the best and newest equipment available. A critical need was recently addressed with the purchase of new equipment for continuous ECG and blood pressure monitoring.

New echocardiographic equipment was put into service in 2013 and has significantly improved the number and quality of the procedures being done. A new Byplane Catheterization
Laboratory is being installed with IVUS and FFR capabilities. The commencement of procedures in this lab will significantly improve the standard and scope of procedures performed.

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7. Cardiothoracic Surgery

Prof FE Smit  
051 405 3861  
smitfe@ufs.ac.za

Prof Pascal M Dohmen from the University of Leipzig and Leipzig Heart Centre, one of the most active and prestigious cardiac units in the world, was appointed as Extraordinary Professor in our department. Prof Dohmen is an internationally acclaimed leader in the field of tissue engineering. His work in cardiac tissue engineering is internationally acclaimed; he has successfully developed tissue engineered heart valve conduits and is specifically active in the field of decellularisation of cardiac substitutes.

Our valve development and evaluation ability has matured and we are now in a position to conduct full trials for FDA and EC registration of heart valves.

The Department received confirmation that we will again be hosting the EACTS Hannes Meyer Training Course during the SA Heart Congress, and will also host the third VATS and VALVE Training Course in June 2014.

We are expanding our valve research in homograft and xenograft fields, as well as computative bio-engineering and decellurisation.

Wheels of Hope  
The Department of Cardiothoracic Surgery has obtained sponsorship from Life Rosepark Hospital; a mobile echocardiography machine was donated and they also cover running expenses. John Williams Motors provided a Mercedes Vito, and the project is supported by the Faculty of Health Sciences, UFS, and the Biotechnology Department, Central University of Technology (CUT).

The intention is to develop paediatric and adult cardiac medicine as well as diagnostic and therapeutic strategies in thoracic disease.

This project focuses on regional hospitals and schools in Bloemfontein and Welkom and, in a second phase, Bethlehem in the Free State. It also involves schools in Kimberly (later also other schools in the Northern Cape) as well as Kimberley Hospital in the Northern Cape.
8. Chemical Pathology

Prof JM Kuyl
051 405 2914
kuyljm@ufs.ac.za

Consultants and registrars are involved in the education of certain of the modules presented by the Department Basic Medical Sciences for second- and third-year MBChB students. Training of registrars takes place in Chemical Pathology and Clinical Pathology, consisting of weekly tutorials, seminars, journal discussions and practical exercises.

The Department is involved in various research projects in cooperation with other departments.

The consultants of the Department render an advisory service 24-hour, 7 days a week to our clinical colleagues. The weekly endocrine, lipid and diabetics clinics are attended in a consultative capacity.

The Department’s routine laboratory renders extensive diagnostic service to the Universitas Academic Complex. The laboratory is a SANAS-accredited reference laboratory for the Free State and Northern Cape. More than 200 000 patient samples, on which approximately 800 000 tests are done, are received during the year.

9. Clinical Imaging Sciences

Prof CS de Vries
051 405 3471
devriesc@ufs.ac.za

Medical students receive education in the use of imaging and how to interpret chest plates. The postgraduate academic programme consists of active participation by the registrars.

The focus is on creating research management in the department, with a research meeting once every two weeks, with support from Prof H Kotzé as well as from Prof W Rae and Prof C Herbst from the Department Medical Physics.

After some requests, two courses were developed, namely: The EXIT (Emergency X-Ray Interpretation – including Trauma) and a FAST-L (Focused ultrasound Assessment in Trauma and Line Placement). The idea is to present the course four times per year and to also use the EXIT course for undergraduate medical student training.
10. Clinical Simulation Unit

Dr MJ Labuschagne  
054 401 3869  
labuschagnemj@ufs.ac.za

The Clinical Simulation Unit of the School of Medicine started providing a facility for simulation training of undergraduate students in January 2013. Simulators ordered in 2012 arrived in January and February 2013. Instructor-based simulation sessions included procedural skills training, scenario training with medium and high fidelity simulators, standardised patients and flat screen simulation sessions. The unit was used for self-directed learning by undergraduate as well as postgraduate medical students, especially for procedural skills training.

The Simulation Unit was officially opened on 21 February 2013 by Prof GJ van Zyl, Dean of the Faculty of Health Sciences.

The integration of simulation training in the undergraduate curricula of the main disciplines was initiated and gained momentum during the year. The unit was also used for registrar and intern training by several departments in the School of Medicine. From May until December 2013, almost 2 000 students made use of the unit. Several CPD events were arranged and presented in the unit.

Professor Bosseau Murray, a renowned simulation expert and anaesthesiologist from Penn State University, Hershey, United States of America, visited the Clinical Simulation Unit and presented a workshop and staff development session on 14 and 15 October 2013.

The University of Botswana paid a visit to the Clinical Simulation Unit to obtain information and knowledge about simulation and clinical skills training. Simulation and Skills Unit staff members visited the University of Botswana in October 2013 to advise them on integration of simulation and skills training into their curricula.

The prospects for the coming year is to provide a facility for the departments of the School of Medicine to enhance the curriculum with simulation-based training for the undergraduate students. The Clinical Skills Unit and the Clinical Simulation Unit will amalgamate from January 2014 and two new posts will be created additionally, namely a Medical Officer and a Simulation Coordinator (registered nurse).

The provision of postgraduate training opportunities will be one of the focus points in the coming year and special emphasis will be on the implementation of postgraduate training opportunities in collaboration with the academic departments and their specific needs. The development of CPD training sessions will be expanded.

11. Clinical Skills Unit

Dr L De Bruyn  
051 405 3104  
gndkldb@ufs.ac.za

MBChB students attend practical sessions in the Clinical Skill Unit during their preclinical study years. They are taught and practise all skills related to the management of a patient. These include taking a patient’s history, examining a patient, counselling patients and performing
clinical procedures on manikins e.g. blood sampling and suturing. The opportunity to revise these skills in the students’ own time is presented in the Self-Directed Learning Centre. In their study years the students visit primary healthcare children’s clinics, where they evaluate and manage the medical condition of ill children.

Audio-visual recordings of clinical and procedural presentations are produced in the Clinical Skills Unit and are available on the online learning environment. These sources are used by students as preparation for or revision of the presentations.

Research in subject context includes the perception of MBChB students regarding the value of their Clinical Skills Training in Phase II; evaluation of students’ understanding of questions set in the Clinical Skills assessment; and a study to investigate the academic history of students following their Clinical Skills course.

We continue to pursue our aims of promoting clinical skills to meet the needs of a practising medical doctor and to make use of a dynamic online learning environment to support and enhance interactive teaching and learning of students.

12. Critical Care

Dr MGL Spruyt
051 405 3314
spruytmgl@ufs.ac.za

The department is involved to some extent in undergraduate training through the Wednesday symposiums for fourth- and fifth-years. Postgraduate academic training is presented for registrars in surgical disciplines, Anaesthesia, Internal Medicine and Obstetrics & Gynaecology. Registrars spend a three-month period in the department of Critical Care.

We have one registered intensivist in the department, one consultant who plans to write the examination for the Critical Care Certificate at the end of 2014, and two consultants in training posts for the same examination. We are also continuously involved in training young doctors and nursing staff in basic intensive care, ensuring better care for patients at all levels.

Our focus is mainly on service delivery and teaching, as staff shortages make it difficult to spend more time on research. Construction is still underway on the new unit at Pelonomi Hospital, where a 32-bed unit comprising High Care and Intensive Care is being built.

We have three trainee subspecialists and hope to be able to train more intensivists in future.
13. **Dermatology**

*Prof W Sinclair*

051 401 7504

sinclarw@ufs.ac.za

During 2013 we were very fortunate to be able to continue with a full staff complement consisting of two full-time consultants, six registrars, one medical officer and one part-time consultant.

Undergraduate training continued as before. The department also took an active part in the training of postgraduate students in Internal Medicine, Paediatrics and Family Medicine.

The Dermatology out-patient clinics continued to be very busy and productive, with a 7.6% increase in patient numbers recorded.

Outreach action continued effectively. Monthly visits to Manapo Hospital, Phuthaditjhaba, by Prof Sinclair have been highly successful, with about 40 patients seen and managed at each clinic. Outreach clinics to Dihlabeng Hospital, Bethlehem, also continued during 2013, where about 30 patients are seen at each visit.

The future of this department looks good. All departmental activities are running smoothly and the academic atmosphere is very healthy.

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14. **Family Medicine**

*Dr N Mofolo*

051 401 3312

mofolon@ufs.ac.za

We were greatly honoured and privileged to be recipients of the Discovery Foundation Rural Fellowship grant to the value of R500 000, to support satellite sites and rural training in the Free State and Northern Cape. This award has enabled us to offer emergency training courses to interns, registrars, clinical associates, medical officers and consultants. It has also made way for us to have a greater number of outreach visits and interactions with the more remote rural areas in the Free State by providing us with the necessary resources for transport, communication and training material as well as equipment for those areas.

The funding also allowed us to procure a colposcope that is currently being utilized at Tshepong rape victim support centre for training and gathering of evidence to help the courts prosecute perpetrators.

We are saddened by the passing away of one of our graduates, Dr Emile de Koker, from our satellite Kimberly Hospital campus.

We continue to forge strong working relations with the Province and the District Clinical Specialist team (DCST), whose family physicians have been working closely with the department. The family physicians of the DCST have been deployed in the district hospitals and this further increases our potential to extend our training in the districts.
The department continues to work closely with the Maternal and Child Health Unit in the Province.

The postgraduate clinical forensic diploma, which the department is still developing in conjunction with Forensic Pathology, has received HPCSA and Department of Education approval and is due for accreditation by the Council of Higher Education and for possible implementation in 2015.

Our vision and goal is to see every district hospital in the Free State have a family physician as part of the management team. There is a proposed model by which the training platform can be extended in the districts after family physicians within the DCST have been placed in the district hospitals for service delivery while doing clinical governance in the district. We have a strategic plan to see every district train at least four registrars.

The department plans to continue to increase capacity in the districts through education and training on resuscitation skills (child, adult, mother), TB and HIV, screening, prevention and management, by making use of the Discovery Foundation Rural Fellowship funding.

The department intends to be involved in Community-based Education at both under- and postgraduate levels. We are currently busy with revising our strategic plan which will pave a way for the next three years.

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15. **Haematology and Cell Biology**

*Prof MJ Coetzee*

051 405 3043  
[coetzeejm@ufs.ac.za](mailto:coetzeejm@ufs.ac.za)

We had seven papers in accredited journals in 2013, with a median impact factor of these journals being 3.215. Our GMO Testing Facility was responsible for a big proportion of this.

Our programmes are stable, with a steady output of graduates. Our personnel are recognised nationally and internationally. We want to gain momentum with our new departmental strategy.

In terms of research, we continue to work in cooperation with Clinical Haematology, Internal Medicine, Clinical Imaging Sciences and Medical Physics. The collaboration with Otorhinolaryngology on hereditary haemorrhagic telangiectasia is promising.

We hope to expand our research into haemostasis, cooperate with more departments, and to grow together with the NHLS as it develops its new roadmap. We will be building our strategic plan. Our core values are enthusiasm, dedication, integrity and diversity.
16. **Internal Medicine**

*Prof VJ Louw*

051 405 3154  
*louwvj@ufs.ac.za*

Prof Mollentze retired on 31 March 2013, and Prof Louw took over as Head of Department on 1 September 2013.

In the **Division Infectious Diseases**, an antibiotic stewardship programme was started at Universitas Hospital, and a consultation service for HIV genotyping and advice started for the Free State.

The World Transplant Games (all organs) were held this year, and from the **Division of Nephrology**, one of our Free State kidney transplant patients won gold in both the 100 m as well as the 200 m.

In the **Division of Medical Education**, our hugely successful tutor programme was further developed and expanded in 2013, and became the model for student academic support in the SoM. The Transport Project is now fully established and changes lives on a daily basis. A formal research study by Dr Schoeman and the Dean, Prof Gert van Zyl, to measure its impact was done and paper has been submitted for publication in 2014.

In the **Division Endocrinology**'s Bicycles for Diabetes programme, bicycles were donated to two teenage diabetics, K Sebisi (best control) and L Mesolloa (best improvement).

The division aims to establish a unit that renders an international service to the local patient and health services, as well as the establishment of a research unit that does academic as well as clinical research, to the benefit of the patients and also the persons working in the unit.

In the **Division Gastroenterology** Mr Mokoa stayed on as head of the unit at Pelonomi Hospital for the whole year, and he retired on 31 December 2013.

Pelonomi’s gastroscopy and bronchoscopy units have now been combined on the second floor. The gastro unit now falls under the cost structure of the Department Surgery and Prof Sampie Smit now deals with the lists and supervision over the gastro unit.

The 10 beds in 7B between the surgical beds works excellently, as the interaction between gastroenterology and surgery is excellent and consultations can be done directly back and forth. Registrars now also do residency more regularly on a three-monthly basis at gastroenterology, where they then receive the necessary training.

The gastro unit of Universitas has developed into a more fully fledged tertiary unit, with Pelonomi the secondary unit. For training purposes the postgraduate students could see one another’s patients back and forth. For practical purposes we could exchange our patients among one another to the service where they would receive the best help. Consultations to and fro went well.

Surgery has now also developed a specialist division, where we work closely together in the ward and the outpatient division. The group practice’s Netcare facilities in the new building in front of Universitas Hospital is close to the gastro unit and considerably eases our work. This interaction between state and private currently has a healthy influence for both the state and private sectors.
Although Prof V Louw has departed to become Head of the Department, he has, however, spent a great deal of time and energy in ensuring that those remaining in the **Division Clinical Haematology** are competent to carry on the work he has begun.

Another major change was the loss of the acute leukaemia unit housed in Ward 8a (Netcare) due to budget constraints. The sisters and staff handled the unexpected and hasty movement of patients into the renovated ward 29 with great professionalism. The clinic continues its fantastic work, taking on the burden of additional patients requiring chemotherapy with distinction. The patients are continually commenting on the high quality of nursing care they receive there.

We continue to take part in contract research in an attempt to access medication that would otherwise be unavailable to our patients. This allows both doctors and patients the opportunity to work with medicines that would otherwise be too costly to afford and brings a direct benefit to many patients. There is also an indirect benefit to patients as funds generated are used to maintain the equipment and decor in the clinic. All funds generated from contract research are ploughed back into the Division.

The tutor programme of the **Division Medical Education** is still very effective and popular with the students.

With the positive attitude and dedication of the personnel in the **Division Pulmonology**, we meet the future with confidence. The Pulmonology clinic and ward services as well as patient care are managed very effectively by the personnel of the division.

The Division Rheumatology is involved in the public with lectures and presentations, especially on International Arthritis Day, in an effort to promote community training and awareness of rheumatology conditions. The Division also tries to promote the Lupus Support Group of South Africa.

Expansion of sonar and MRI of the musculoskeletal system in cooperation with the Department Radiology took place, and the Division is actively involved in the development of a rehabilitation unit.

The Division is also involved in the training and implementation of wrist sonars.

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17. **Medical Microbiology and Virology**

*Prof AA Hoosen*

051 405 3076  
*hoosenaa@ufs.ac.za*

The current departmental research programmes are expanding; the Vector-borne and Zoonotic Virus Research Group is continuing with investigating immune responses to selected arboviruses and vaccine development whilst the Human Papilloma Virus Group is looking at aetiological associations with malignancies in the head and neck region. The HIV research group collaborations with the Department of Internal Medicine and Oxford University are continuing with projects on HIV drug resistance and HIV immunology. Furthermore, the Antimicrobial Resistance Group has been formulated and will investigate bacterial resistance mechanisms.
Registrar training activities resumed as two Medical Microbiology posts were filled in early 2013.

Plans are underway to consolidate serological diagnosis for microbiology and virology. Equipment is to be purchased for open access testing and to be utilised by both sections of the laboratory. This will allow for rationalisation of tests and availability of staff for other laboratory functions.

The current virology laboratory for viral load testing needs renovation to make it more efficient and prevent contamination. Quotations have been requested for renovation work and these are outstanding.

The high volume of TB diagnostic work together with TB research activities requires a much safer TB Diagnostic Laboratory which ideally should be at the Biosafety Level 3. Hence, plans have been drawn for improved and safe work flow and funding is being requested from the National Health Laboratory Service (NHLS) and the University of Free State administration.

There are also plans to design a molecular diagnostic facility for testing of pathogens other than *Mycobacterium tuberculosis*. This is required to improve specificity of diagnosis and optimum turn-around times.

18. **Medical Physics**

*Prof WID Rae*

051 405 3156  
raewid@ufs.ac.za

The year 2013 was a year of great activity and a major success was achieved for the Department. The work that we do is still being recognised as of high quality and members of our team won three of the five travel grants for young researchers at the Faculty Forum.

The finalisation of some more of the research projects means that an increased number of papers is in the pipeline for 2014. It is anticipated that 2014 will see the publication of much of the past five years of research work.

Our research efforts were greatly stimulated by our great success in 2013 which was the Award of an MRC Flagship Project Grant to the Department for our High-Energy Accurate Radiation Dosimetry (HARD) Project.

We had good exposure in the UK at an International Congress where our Educational and Medical Physics research was presented in specialised workshops at the ICMP 2013. The International community is still supportive of our efforts to improve Medical Physics capacity in Africa. They have requested us to support their efforts to hold a major international medical physics congress in SA and this may take place in 2016.

Members of our Department are still involved with the IAEA and the IOMP and are used as regional and international experts at training workshops and courses. We are to host the 2015 National Congress of the SAAPMB and preparations for this event have commenced. Mr W Shaw chairs that committee.
We look forward to a very productive and active year in which the Flagship Project will start up and we will be taking in new post graduate students who should become part of our productive research team. Our teaching will continue and is being redistributed in anticipation of staff changes over the next two years.

Following the Department’s winning the MRC Flagship Project Award, significant research equipment is to be purchased. Realistic expectations also exist for attracting international students as the award covers those costs. More international collaboration and international visitors are expected over the coming five years and several workshops are planned. We anticipate that we will have to continue to fill our role as a productive research training department in the region and we are thus building our complement of competent research staff.

Dr H du Raan has an active quantitative Nuclear Medicine Imaging group, which is still seeking formalisation of their international collaborations, and the Radiology team is doing active research in the fields of Radiological dosimetry and Quantitative Image processing.

19. **Neurology**

*Prof AJ Kruger*

051 405 3550  
[gnnlajk@ufs.ac.za](mailto:gnnlajk@ufs.ac.za)

Lectures were presented to third-, fourth- and fifth-year medical students, as well as to students in neurology to Physiotherapy and Occupational Therapy students.

During the year MB ChB IV students were resident for two weeks for clinical teaching. Discussions were led on occasion as part of the Internal Medicine teaching programme for Interns. MB ChB IV students reside for two weeks at a time at Neurology and Neurosurgery. MB ChB III students reside for two weeks at the end of the semester for training in clinical examination.

Postgraduate training for Internal Medicine registrars took place on Fridays and the clinical discussions of the Department of Internal Medicine on Wednesdays and Fridays were also attended by the Neurology personnel with contributions of case reports and discussion. Postgraduate students from Psychiatry were also resident as part of the psychiatric teaching programme.

20. **Nuclear Medicine**

*Prof AC Otto*

051 405 3488  
[gnknaco@ufs.ac.za](mailto:gnknaco@ufs.ac.za)

Progress with the development of $^{99m}$Tc-ECDG in 2013 was up to date and successful. A SPECT-CT camera was installed at National Hospital at the end of 2013 and started
functioning in 2014. This camera is of the latest technology in this type of modality and is the first and only one of its type in South Africa.

### 21. Obstetrics and Gynaecology

**Prof PH Wessels**  
051 405 3272  
phwessels@mweb.co.za

The Department has satellite training units in Welkom and Kimberley, and undergraduate student training takes place at MUCPP and Heidedal.

Drs EW Henn, MM Mohosho and GJ Hanekom are national master trainers in the ESMOE (Essential Steps in Managing Obstetric Emergencies) programme.

The Department is putting a lot of effort into making a difference in the unnecessary high maternal mortality rate in the Free State Province.

### 22. Oncology

**Dr AC Bester**  
051 405 2646  
mulderc@fshealth.gov.za

The Department has a strong contract research arm taking part in a wide variety of international studies to give our patients exposure to the newest available drugs. The funds of the research are also ploughed back into the department.

The research projects of the MMed students show great promise and bring new developments and facets to the Department.

An agreement with Maastricht University for cooperation with regard to cervical cancer data has been reached and became operational.

The Golf Day Fund Raising by De Villiers Brink and Gys Botes brought in donations for wheelchairs, egg-shell mattresses and chairs for patient rooms.

It was positive to see how, when our brachytherapy machine broke, the department personnel, support services from kitchen and transport and Universitas Hospital Management worked together to ensure that our patient care takes priority. Patients were taken to Klerksdorp Hospital for brachytherapy daily for three weeks. Our doctors, sisters and physicists stayed in Klerksdorp on rotational basis for those three weeks to treat the patients.

The female side of ward 28 will be upgraded in conjunction with the Innovative Cancer Care Foundation.
23. **Ophthalmology**

*Dr WJ Marais*

051 405 2151  
*solokj@fshealth.gov.za*

Prof AA Stulting resigned as Head of Department, and was replaced by Dr WJ Marais in August 2013.

An outreach programme started on national level with African Vision.

In collaboration with the MEC for Health, the satellite clinic in Boitumelo Hospital has been revived by sending registrars in the department to Kroonstad from Thursdays to Sundays on a weekly basis.

Rotation of registrars in the department of ophthalmology of Wits, Stellenbosch and Durban for a week each to be exposed to subspecialties.

Telemedicine with rural hospitals in the Free State which will help decrease patient load on the clinic. We hope to establish a telemedicine link with the esteemed Moorfields Eye Clinic in the UK for international exposure and assistance with interesting and complicated cases.

During Retina World Week, screening was done, as well as a dedicated vitreoretinal surgery day held. Glaucoma outreach and screening were done in QwaQwa, in partnership with Allergan International.

Outreach activities include:
- Cataract surgery tours for the Bureau for the Prevention of Blindness nationally
- Cataract surgery tours for African Vision nationally.
- International outreach tours to Angola with Doctors for Life
- Outreach programme to the Schools for the Deaf and Blind, including Barthimea School (Thaba Nchu), Armari School (Welkom), Christiana School and Thiboloha School (QwaQwa).

24. **Orthopaedics**

*Dr DF du P Louw*

051 405 2242  
*legrangeer@ufs.ac.za*

There seems to be an increased inclination to subspecialising under orthopaedic surgery. For this reason the postgraduate training is based on this principle.

The curriculum of undergraduate students currently covers all the important aspects of training. The size of the groups makes it difficult to accommodate students meaningfully in busy clinics, wards and theatres, but the simulation unit may be part of the solution here. The installation of a functioning computer system with big screens and that offers access to e.g. X-rays at all hospitals will also be of great value.
25. **Otorhinolaryngology**

*Prof RY Seedat*

051 405 3344  
seedatry@ufs.ac.za

Our department once again hosted its annual temporal bone course, presented by Prof Thomas Linder from Luzern.

The department successfully organised the annual congress of the South African Society of Otorhinolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery. International guest speakers at the congress were Prof Prepageran from the University of Malaya, Prof Sennaroglu from Hacettepe University and Prof Van den Brekel from the Netherlands Cancer Institute.

Ms M Smith returned to the department in June 2013 from the University of Minnesota, where she had been a Hubert Humphrey fellow.

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26. **Paediatrics and Child Health**

*Prof A Venter*

051 405 3181  
gnpdav@ufs.ac.za

Medical history is again made during the sixth World Paediatric Cardiology and Cardiothoracic Surgery Congress in Cape Town in February 2013: A medical team implanted a valve through an artery without opening the chest cavity. It is the first time in SA that such an operation was transmitted live using broadband internet to a congress. Approximately 400 heart specialists from across the world viewed this operation in the Cape Town International Convention Centre. The patient, a 14-year-old boy from Namibia, was born with tetralogy of Fallot and had already had a previous valve replacement. Prof Brown, together with other members of the team, did a Melody valve replacement percutaneously (from the groin). The procedure was very successful and informative.

Dr Alexia Kappos, paediatric pulmonologist at the Department Paediatrics, is the first and only in the Free State to treat children with lung disease in the Free State, Northern Cape and Lesotho. She treats complicated and longstanding lung disease, which includes, among others, asthma, cystic fibrosis and airway problems.

The new Paediatric Cardiology Division is complete and fully operational.

From 12-14 April 2013 the 5th Kids Diabetes Camp was held for children between the ages of 9 and 13 years. The camp is financially supported by “Youth with Diabetes” and an experienced diabetes educator, a camp leader as well as group leaders from Johannesburg are sent on the camp were invited to attend.

This was the first time that the kids diabetes camp has been part of the fourth-year dietetics syllabus. The students planned the mealtimes, cooked the food, calculated the carbohydrate counts for each item and assisted the children with their choices. They also observed the children testing their glucose levels and deciding how much insulin to inject. Students from the third year of the dietetics study planned and prepared the special final lunch on Sunday.
Children’s Wing Project
The Children’s Wing Project was launched in early 2013 at two meetings, in Johannesburg and Bloemfontein. The launch was combined with a Thank our Donor meeting, where all current donors were thanked for their contribution towards the success of the Beds of Hope Project. Future donors of big companies were also invited to introduce the new project.

Several other activities also took place, e.g. the Rose Ball in October, and the Mandela 67 minute pledge where all the children in the wards were spoilt with soft toys and several potential donors were taken around the hospital to show the current needs we have around the paediatric units.

The MEC of Health, Dr Benny Malakoane and the HOD, Dr David Motau, were also invited to visit the paediatric wards and the Children’s Wing Project was introduced to them. The main aim of the project is to establish a dedicated academic maternal and child hospital in Bloemfontein, which will increase the capacity of maternal, neonatal and paediatric services. This will result in decrease of neonatal mortality and morbidity in the Free State and neighbouring provinces in Central South Africa. This hospital will also be developed into a community centre where all aspects of maternal and child health could be promoted, especially preventative health. Another main objective is the development of comprehensive training for all categories of health workers, as well as developing recognised subspecialist training.

The Vice Chancellor, Prof Jansen, also accepted the Children’s Wing Project as one of the top 10 projects of the University and, together with the Top Management of the UFS, allocated a piece of land in close proximity of the Faculty of Human Sciences. With Prof Andre Venter as project leader, we envisage that this project will change the lives of many families in the central region of South Africa.

27. Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery

Prof JF Jooste
051 405 3544
joostejf@ufs.ac.za

The Department is actively working towards incorporating new posts on the staff establishment and to fill these posts as soon as possible. This will enable us to improve the postgraduate training of MMEd students and registrars will be more able to congresses and symposia. The Department would also like to establish a research culture in Plastic Surgery, which could place the University on the foreground. Joining the Resolve Project with the European Union will be of great benefit to us in this regard.

The Department plans to deliver a high quality reconstructive service to other departments, including the head and neck cancer clinic, skin cancer clinic, maxillofacial patients and lower leg trauma patients.
The appointment of a psychiatrist by the Faculty Of Health Sciences has made a great contribution in respect of training and has placed the Department in a better position to strive towards and maintain academic excellence. Increased output with regard to academic research and publications was still a priority in 2013.

The upgrading of a computer laboratory, student facilities, and the furnishing of an internet facility were of the most important developments in the Department during the past year.

The Department obtained accreditation from the Health Professions Council of South Africa for the training facility for Psychiatry registrars at the Kimberley Academic Hospital Complex.

The Department plans to expand the training and supervision of registrars in the Kimberley Academic Health Complex during 2014. Registrars appointed by the Northern Cape Department of Health will rotate at Free State Psychiatric Complex in Bloemfontein and consultants from the University of the Free State will conduct regular consultant rounds in Kimberley. The Department will also invest in distant network technology required for interaction between the main and satellite training sites.

A formal psychotherapy training programme for registrars was implemented during 2006 and was developed and refined during 2013. The department invested considerable resources in DVDs for psychotherapy training during the previous year. The programme was designed to comply with the psychotherapy training as prescribed by the College of Medicine of South Africa.

The department improved resources in the computer training laboratory where undergraduate students receive training by means of interactive computer guided modules. The programme was implemented in order to accommodate increasing student numbers and was expanded to include modules for postgraduate students during 2012. Existing methods of training were supplemented with interactive computer generated tutorials, clinical case presentations and clinical examinations (OSCEs).

We hope to create a senior psychologist post for Universitas Academic Hospital during 2014. This psychologist will be responsible to assist clinical departments to achieve a more comprehensive management programme for various chronic medical conditions. Undergraduate students will also rotate at Universitas during their psychiatry residency in order to gain exposure to a more integrated approach to medically ill patients. The Department plans to start training of sub-specialists in child and adolescent psychiatry once approval for the creation of such training posts had been granted by the Department of Health.

The Free State Psychiatric Complex is earmarked for the Revitalization and Rehabilitation Programme of the Department of Health. A committee to propose a plan for revitalisation was recently appointed. Consideration is currently being given to relocate the hospital to a new Facility of which the location must be determined.

The increased need for psychiatric expert reports and testimony by the Department of Justice will need to be addressed in alternative ways. Current demands by the courts on mental health care facilities and staff are increasing the burden on the already limited mental health resources in the Department of Health.
The substantial increase in numbers of patients treated by this Department is expected to continue and new innovative ways to decentralise management of mental disorders throughout the Free State need to be sought.

29. Sport and Exercise Medicine

Dr LJ Holtzhausen
051 401 2530
geslh@ufs.ac.za

The Department hosted Dr Robert Sallis, chairperson of Exercise is Medicine International, who presented the 4th Annual Sports Medicine Invitational Lecture in October 2013.

Dr LJ Holtzhausen was chairperson of the Exercise is Medicine movement in South Africa and Africa. Accreditation courses in Exercise Prescription were developed and presented to health care providers and fitness professionals to create an inter-referral database. Dr Holtzhausen was also co-chairperson of the Steering Committee of the College of Sport and Exercise Medicine of South Africa (CSEM(SA)).

The Department is involved in the planning and roll-out of the UFS Staff Wellness programme and the Exercise is Medicine on Campus project, in association with the American College of Sports Medicine.

We are also regular hosts of the sport and exercise sciences interdepartmental research discussion group to facilitate interdisciplinary research.

For the future, we aim for strategic planning for sustainable continuation of Sport and Exercise Medicine as academic discipline in the School of Medicine.

30. Surgery

Prof RS du Toit
051 405 3545
dutoitr@ufs.ac.za

With the new consultant corps the Department Surgery is busy mastering the new challenges.

Strategic future planning is done early in 2013. One reason for this is the requested doubling of our under- and postgraduate students over 10 years. This will lead to far-reaching consequences regarding our training and service delivery platforms. In 2013 and thereafter we will subsequently have to give more attention to community-based education, e-learning and simulation.

Prof EJ Theron compiled the Trauma workbook for undergraduate students in Medicine in Afrikaans and English during 2011-2013.
Family doctor training, previously neglected, was expanded with weekly lectures on practical skills.

The Department Surgery has more subspecialists than ever before, namely hepatobiliary, gastroenterology, vascular, critical care and trauma. This academic training filters through to better registrar training.

At tertiary level the Department functions well and specialist units have a healthy effect on postgraduate and subspecialist training. The above structural changes at tertiary level also have a healthy effect on undergraduate training. Students currently rotate more and thus receive complete exposure to the subject area.

Limited numbers of surgical beds, nursing personnel and theatre time are becoming more of a problem. Optimising resources will thus be one of our future priorities.

Outreaches are approached aggressively from various angles. The satellite services at Kimberley and Welkom are established and in future will be expanded, as the current focus shift is more towards community-based education. We think that this will be an area with sustained growth, which will be to the benefit of our Department and also the community.

31. Urology

Prof SW Wentzel
051 405 3542
wentzels@ufs.ac.za

There was growth and cooperation between the registrars, consultants and personnel.

The Department was successful at the SAU congress at Sun City.

The databases for prostate carcinoma, penis carcinoma, vesicovaginal fistula, urethra strictures and hypospadias all function very well and enable us to do research more easily. The Department plans to hold a symposium every second year about a subject in Urology. The Paediatric Urology symposium was a great success.

There is a need to expand the Urology Oncology joint clinic, also to the private sector.

The need to have Urology function independently from Surgery at Pelonomi Hospital still exists. Progress in this area has been made and as of the new financial year, Urology will function independently.

The outreaches to Dihlabeng and Kimberley hospitals must be re-evaluated and expanded.
1. Introduction

The year 2013 was characterised by various highlights, the main of which was the successful completion of the University-based Nursing Education South Africa (UNEDSA) programme that was initiated in 2009, and concluded in March 2013.

The School of Nursing received a grant of R16 million from Atlantic Philanthropies to enable it to participate in the UNEDSA project. The School of Nursing has been the only one of the six University-based training schools to successfully complete the project within the designated time frame.

The School of Nursing also excelled on all three levels of scholarship, namely research, teaching and learning and community engagement and service learning.

2. Research

a) Research niche areas

During 2012, two research niche areas were initiated under the guidance of Prof Yvonne Botma and Dr Marianne Reid. Throughout 2013 various post-graduate students were accommodated in these two research areas. For their specific research niche areas, Prof Botma and Dr Reid respectively received Thutuka NRF Grant worth R250 000 and R77 900 per three year cycle.

b) Research output

The School’s research output increased from no outputs in 2011, to four in 2012, and seven articles in 2013 (Refer Addendum A: 2).

Ten masters’ degree students graduated successfully during 2013. Four of these students, of which three are staff members of the School of Nursing, graduated cum laude (Mss Mari Prinsloo, Ronelle Jansen and Anna-Marie Welman). Ms Thandi Letsie, also a lecturer at the School, received her PhD degree.

3. Teaching and Learning

a) Short learning programmes

The sustainability of the short learning programmes remains a challenge. Since it is costly to present the programmes, extensive marketing is needed to attract sufficient attendees for the presentations to be feasible. A contributing factor is the financial difficulties experienced by our main client: The Department of Health.

As result, both quality assurance and marketing are continuous processes. Short learning programmes are revised every three years and marketing is done through advertisements, brochures, booklets, LCD-screens and personal contact.
On recommendation of the Vice-Rector, Prof Driekie Hay, a proposal was submitted and approved by the council to change the name of the Centre for Continuous Nursing Education to the Academy for Continuing Nursing Education. The Academy for Continuing Nursing Education currently generates enough income to maintain itself, while also ensuring the sustainability of the infrastructure of the Teaching and Learning Facility (Benedictus Kok Building) of the School of Nursing through maintenance support.

b) Innovative teaching strategies

Immersive Simulation with standardised patients and high fidelity simulators (mannequins) was implemented with much success as a teaching and learning strategy. Immersive simulation is when students are completely involved, and actively participate and lead decision-making while resolving a contextualised situation. The situation may be simulated by standardised patients, high fidelity mannequins or a combination of the two. Immersive simulations follow a structured approach of briefing, executing and debriefing, which are video recorded. The recordings are available to students to review the simulation and reflect on their performance. Students learn most through the well-structured debriefing sessions that are facilitated by skilled facilitators. Students from the Department of Drama act as standardised patients during simulation.

Research findings indicate that the School of Nursing’s training empowers its students and enhances their self-confidence. Students have always been well trained but simulations provide the confidence to know that if they have to deal with cases in the wards or community similar to what they encountered in simulation, they will not be afraid or intimidated. Simulations afford students the opportunity to do things as they are done in the real world.

The use of innovative teaching strategies has led to an improvement in transfer of learning as reflected in research outputs and student evaluations. However, more research is required to determine if immersive simulation does indeed translate into better patient care.

In cooperation with Drexel University, Philadelphia, USA, the School of Nursing presented a second one-week train-the-trainer simulation workshop for 25 trainers at the end of 2013. Staff from the School of Medicine and the School of Allied Health Professions was also involved in the training. The income generated from these workshops will be used for the maintenance of the very expensive high fidelity patient simulators and other equipment. The income generated also determines the number of sessions in which standardised patients will be used in future.

The Drexel workshops, together with visits to other international institutions and the use of immersive simulation, have resulted in the fact that the Staff of the School of Nursing is seen as experts in simulation.

4. Community engagement and service learning

a) Mandela Day celebrations

At the Mandela Day initiative of the Faculty of Health Sciences on 31 July and 1 August 2013, the School of Nursing and the School of Medicine jointly had an exhibition on living a healthy lifestyle in the Mimosa Mall in Bloemfontein. Pamphlets were provided to the public and the public’s blood pressure was taken by volunteers.

As part of the Mandela Month celebrations, first-year students of the School of Nursing participated in the development of an activity park at a site in Heidedal. The community attended a celebration day in July, during which the park was officially opened.
b) **Child health, KDP105**

This module was offered for the first time during the second semester of 2013. The partnership with Reach was extended to include students who had enrolled for this module. Students registered for this module are registered nurses that specialise in Child Health Nursing. The service learning component focuses on children with special needs, and on equipping community workers with paediatric palliative care skills.

5. **Awards**

Ms Karin Venter and Ms Ielse Seale received the Vice-Rector’s award for Community Engagement, in recognition of outstanding service, commitment and excellence in the field of Community Engagement.

6. **Conclusion**

The year 2013 was an outstanding year. The School of Nursing went from strength to strength in all activities undertaken. Leadership was presented on various terrains.

“It cannot be denied that the transformation journey at times was precarious and unpredictable. In the end it developed in the form of a spiral – after each success we moved on to a new dimension at a higher level. The challenge we are left with now is to maintain the momentum of transformation and scholarship development, enhance our leadership position and attain new heights with our research output”.

*(Narrative Report to Atlantic Philanthropies, June 2013).*