



Faculty of Health Sciences Rural Community Initiative

Research

The research approach followed on the Faculty of Health Sciences Rural Community Initiative (FHSRCI) is Participatory Action Learning Action Research (PALAR). Through a scholarship of engagement, community and faculty form part of conceptualisation, data collection and interpretation of results during the research process. Future developments will include empowering the community to be able to be part of the article writing process.

The FHSRCI has an ethical approved protocol in place written in such a way as to allow other researchers to use this approval for their studies. The title of the protocol is *A Collaborative engagement platform within the Faculty of health sciences at the University of the Free State*

This should be seen as a multiprofessional, multidisciplinary vehicle for research from early stages of conceptualisation to implementation.

The Objectives of this protocol are:

- Community
To develop equitable inclusive partnerships with diverse stakeholders eliciting social empathy leading to social responsiveness and social justice
- Curriculum
To generate a collaborative practice curriculum for both under- and post-graduate students in the FHS.
- Centre
To establish an academic centre of excellence that will facilitate flourishing praxis and research opportunities
- Contribution
To describe the outcomes and impact towards social change; transformation of healthcare and educational practices

Research presentations

Members of the CBE team, other academics from the faculty and community members have attended several academic conferences:

Presentations

1. Asia Pacific Medical Educators Conference (APMEC), Singapore, 2019
A Basic Optometry screening Short course for Interprofessional healthcare providers
2. International network for health workforce education conference, Porto, 2017
Health Professions students experiences on a Rural Collaborative Learning Platform
3. Discovery Foundation Alumni conference, 2017
Screening and assessment of rural health care

4. AfrIPEN- symposium on Interprofessional Education in Africa, Windhoek, 2017
A one year review of the impact of a rural Interprofessional Education collaborative platform on health professions student learning
5. 14th World Rural Health Conference, Queensland, 2017
Rural and inter-professional – a new clinical training platform for the University of the Free State, South Africa
6. Rural Doctors Association of South Africa (RuDASA), 2016
A new platform and a new rotation – rural health exposure at the University of the Free State's Medical School
7. RuDASA 2016
Kopanang le fodise - the amazing way South: Interprofessional health professions education in the rural Southern Free State
8. RuDASA 2015
Faculty of Health Sciences, University of the Free State (UFS): Launching Community-Based Education in the Xhariep District

Poster presentations

1. SAAHE 2018
Plurovesitism through enriched Reciprocity
2. South African Assosiation of Health Educationalists (SAAHE) 2017
How can the School of Medicine teach social accountability?
3. RuDASA 2016
Kopanang le fodise: the amazing way south, IPE in the rural FS

Conference Awards

1. RuDASA 2016
Poster presentation winner
2. SAAHE 2017
Poster presentation winner
3. APMEC 2019
Short communication winner (Figure 1)

**Short Communications Presentation
(Merit Award)**

René Botha

Asia Pacific Medical Education Conference (APMEC) 2019
on 10, 11 & 12 January



Dr Dujeepa D Samarasekera
Director, Centre for Medical Education
Yong Loo Lin School of Medicine
National University of Singapore

Figure 1 Conference presentation award received by the presenter on behalf of the CBE team

Articles

First article submitted and accepted for publication in 2019 by South African Journal of Higher Education:

Health professions students' interprofessional experiences on a rural learning platform. Joubert A, Botha RW, Morgan H, Wilmot M and Hagemester D