KING EDWARD VIII HOSPITAL - UKZN -
INVESTEC RENOVATION PROJECT
BEFORE AND AFTER PHOTOS
Welcome to our October update. Our aim is to ensure that we keep our SCM members up to date with events as they unfold. If you have any suggestions, constructive feedback about how we can improve or add value to our update, please feel free to email: dlovan@ukzn.ac.za

SCHOOL NEWS

VACANCIES

1. ACADEMIC LEADERS

We have advertised the posts of Academic Leader: Teaching & Learning and Academic Leader: Research. Dr S Ramklass is on sabbatical leave with effect from 1 October till 31 December 2019 and Prof J Van Wyk’s appointment ended 30 September 2019. Dr M Motala has agreed to act in the post of Academic Leader: Teaching & Learning and Dr S Singaram has agreed to act in the post of Academic Leader: Research whilst we go through the recruitment process. Sincere thanks to both Dr Ramklass and Prof van Wyk for their valuable contributions and assistance to the School. And sincere thanks to Dr Motala and Dr Singaram for being willing to assist us in the interim.

2. DEAN POST

The SCM Dean’s post was advertised for quite some time (2yrs or so) with no applicants. After negotiations with the Leadership, I was persuaded and seconded to the position for 2yrs, as no one wanted to apply for the post. Because I cared for my institution and no one wanted to avail themselves at the most difficult time of our School, I agreed to the secondment. The 2yr secondment post is coming to an end on the 31st Dec 2019, and therefore the post has been advertised. I am grateful to all of you for your support, whilst I held the post of Dean of SCM, and appreciate all your contributions to the small successes that we have been able to achieve as the school, because without you as part of my team, I would not have been able to do so. It has been challenging, however I have learnt a lot in the process, both from my mistakes and the small successes.
UKZN/DOH JHE AGREEMENT

Consultative meetings were held with all affected JHE staff on 25 September 2019 at Medical School. The next step is to reconcile the SCM input that should have been forwarded to Prof Botha, thereafter we shall make plans to finalise with the DOH.

RESPONSE TO ALLEGATIONS OF RACISM AND BULLYING AGAINST UKZN STAFF AT GREY’S HOSPITAL

The University of KwaZulu-Natal is in receipt of a letter accusing four of its honorary clinical staff based in Grey’s Hospital (Pietermaritzburg), of racist and unprofessional behaviour. The allegations have been levelled at staff who are employed by the Department of Health but provide a teaching service to UKZN medical students. UKZN is committed to creating a working and learning environment where colleagues and students are treated with respect and dignity. The allegations are viewed in a serious light by UKZN. Therefore, a high-level delegation was sent to meet with the staff concerned.

This matter is referred to the Department of Health for a full investigation.
UNDERGRAD NEWS

Three new NMFC students have arrived and were orientated during the week of 30 September to 4 October 2019. They will join the 2019 cohort in the final block of this year. A leadership, financial fitness, and mentorship workshop is planned for all our final year medical students. We are also planning a mentorship and career guidance workshop for all our KZN interns. This aims to introduce our interns to post community service career pathing and linking them with potential mentors whilst they are undergoing internship at KZN. We would appreciate HOD’s, HCU’s and senior consultants co-operation in this regard.

CURATION OF MEDICAL SCHOOL HISTORY

This process is underway and will be implemented in 3 stages. The first stage posters will be completed soon and placed shortly on the walls. SCM members were requested last year to bring forth any old pictures of colleagues or the school and we are grateful to those who assisted us.

Dr S.B. PITSOE MEMORIAL CENTRE FOR WOMEN’S HEALTH.

We are grateful to Dr Atkin Pitsoe, an O&G specialist based in JHB, and alumni of UKZN for his idea and generous donation to renovate and build a memorial centre for our well known and fondly remembered Dr “Pops” Pitsoe. Discussions are ongoing with the O&G HOD, Prof Sebitloane and her senior colleagues on this exciting project, which is Dr Atkin Pitsoe’s way of ploughing back.
LEADERSHIP and MENTORSHIP WORKSHOPS at GREYS and NGWELEZANE HOSPITALS

In our attempt to develop our staff, we have planned above workshops at our DCTP, in order to create conducive and collegial relationships within our staff and between the staff and the students they teach. Ngwelezane is scheduled for the 1st November from 10am

POSTGRADUATE NEWS

The 2nd Annual Investec Registrar Awards Evening will take place on 15 November at Investec Offices, Umhlanga Rocks following the popular and well attended 1st Registrar Awards Evening of 2018. HODs are urged to RSVP and respond to the request for details of special registrar achievements.

The Registrar Programme Steering Committee has formalised the details for research leave for MMED completion. The details will be communicated to HODs and registrars shortly.

A Postgraduate Clinical Trainer Workshop is planned for November. We would urge all Doctors involved in registrar training and advise them to attend to ensure a structured and standardised approach across disciplines. An invitation and programme will be circulated. Certificates will be handed for attendees.

MSHIYENI DOCTORS ROOM and LOUNGE

This project is on track and we are once more grateful to Investec for agreeing to support this initiative and thanks to Dr Mwangarere for assisting me to drive the project. We are hoping that next year we will be able to motivate for similar doctor’s spaces at Greys, Edendale, Stanger etc. One hospital project per year.

UNILIVER DONATES PACKS TO UNDERPRIVILEGED STUDENTS

Prof Dlova and Thembeka Masuku (MCRC Chairperson) sorting out donated Unilever personal hygiene products for struggling students at the SCM
The high rates of stress and distress among medical students prompted a search for solutions to complement the existing support provided by the university. A novel intervention was piloted with UKZN medical students across all years, run by the South African Depression and Anxiety Group (SADAG) KZN office, in which 30 students were trained to become “mental health champions”.

The process took place over two interactive sessions: the first was on July 20 and the second was on September 27. It consisted of four consecutive workshops on mental health first aid, mental health literacy, mental health activism, and peer support. These were facilitated by a health promotion specialist, Dr Lynn Norton, and a clinical psychologist, Suntosh Pillay, in partnership with Student Support Service (SSS).

The overall aim of the programme was to sensitize students to the complex nature of mental health and to empower them to become ambassadors for mental wellbeing on campus. The students self-selected into the programme, which bodes well for its sustainability. Using a creative facilitation technique known as Open Space Technology, three students’ ideas were selected by their peers as tangible projects that can be implemented on campus. Suzanne Stokes, from SSS, will be supporting students to turn their ideas into actions. Additionally, UKZN alumnus, Dr Anand Naranbhai, has volunteered his time to mentor students who require additional support in executing their projects.

Students enthusiastically engaged in the intervention and gave highly positive feedback in the evaluation. Already, informal feedback suggests that they are proactively opening up conversations about mental health amongst their peers. A full, formal evaluation report will be given to the Dean by the end of October.
The outdoor gym is underway. Thank you to AHRI and Caprisa who have indicated a willingness to contribute to this facility which will benefit all staff and students based at the NRMSM campus.

The Olive Kitchen has been appointed with effect from today to temporarily provide a service to those of us on Medical School campus whilst the process for the permanent appointment is under way. The mobile kitchen is situated inside campus close to the pedestrian entrance in Umbilo Road.

If you have any queries / comments / complaints please direct them to Ingrid Potgieter SSDC Manager (Acting) PotgieterI@ukzn.ac.za
PS CHANGES
Due to the impending implementation of the JHE, CMC agreed that we could appoint staff on 6 month contracts to the 4 vacant positions in Clinical Support. These posts were advertised as short-term contracts and Ms X Dladla was appointed to assist with the portfolio of Psychiatry with effect from 22 July 2019 and Ms C Mathe to assist with Surgery with effect from 1 September 2019. Unfortunately, no-one was foundappointable for Medicine and Neurosurgery + Paediatric Surgery. Subsequently Ms Dladla resigned having obtained a permanent position elsewhere. We have arranged that Ms B Heeraman relocate from finance to assist Psychiatry and Ms S Naidoo has relocated to IALCH temporarily and taken on Neurosurgery + Paediatric Surgery in addition to Gastroenterology. The DOH administrator for Nephrology has agreed to temporarily assist us with that discipline. Thank You to Everyone who has willingly offered their assistance in this regard. Thank You also to the Medicine staff and those in the sub-specialities who have banded together to continue to provide assistance to Medicine and a very special thank you to Sagree Pillay for holding it all together.

I’m awaiting feedback from the Leadership with respect to way forward noting that the DVC advised at the JHE consultation meetings that there is insufficient funding for filling of all the vacant posts.

I’m happy to announce that Ms S Khuzwayo has been appointed as Senior Admin Officer: Finance/HR. The recruitment and selection process is underway for her replacement.

SCM PS EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH
The SCM PS Recognition Board has been installed on the 4th floor next to SCM Staff Room to proudly display the recipients of the Employee of the Month. It gives me great pleasure to announce the recipient for August 2019 is Mr Narendra Bhimsan (Principal Technician: Anaesthesics) and Ms Zanele Shangase (Admin Officer: Finance) for the month of September 2019.