



# GIVING@UCT

The University of Cape Town Donor Newsletter

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## COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT <

Universities are constantly challenged about the relevance of their research. What difference does their research make in society? How does it impact on communities? And to what extent can it be applied outside of the walls of the university?

While universities will distinctly be the poorer if the relevance of their research was only evaluated by its utilitarian usefulness and if there was not space for so-called 'blue-sky research' - this edition of Giving@UCT shows demonstrably the wide-ranging impact that UCT's research is having in the wider world and the transformative role it is playing in the lives of people far and wide.

This edition of Giving@UCT highlights the support that UCT receives from donors mainly in the area of the health services -

from training rural doctors, to strengthening paediatric health services on the continent, to establishing a cutting-edge neuroscience institute, to volunteer work in the communities through SHAWCO. It also features a tribute to visionary donors Harry and Doris Crossley, who themselves never received formal university education, but had the foresight to appreciate the impact that universities could have in the wider society.

This extraordinary research output of UCT would not be possible without the ongoing support and generosity of our donors.

**DR RUSSELL ALLY**  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR,  
DEVELOPMENT AND ALUMNI DEPARTMENT

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- **RURAL DOCTOR OF THE YEAR**  
Dr Mikail Gurland
- **SHAWCO**  
75 Years of Student Volunteer Work
- **NEUROSCIENCE INSTITUTE**  
Advancing clinical care, research and teaching in the neurosciences
- **DONATIONS HIGHLIGHTS**  
Reflecting on 2018 Donor Support
- **AFRICAN PAEDIATRIC FELLOWSHIP PROGRAMME**  
Strengthening Specialist Paediatric Health Care in Africa
- **THE HARRY CROSSLEY FOUNDATION AND DORIS CROSSLEY FOUNDATION**  
"Why We Are Giving@UCT"

# RURAL DOCTOR OF THE YEAR

DR MIKAIL GURLAND



# 75 YEARS OF STUDENT VOLUNTEER WORK

SHAWCO



In 2015 Dr Mikail Gurland was one of eight pioneering Health Sciences students who volunteered to be trained in the Southern Cape, at a largely rural municipality. The group was sent to test whether a project of training doctors away from the Cape Town Metropole would be feasible, in light of the need for diverse exposure and holistic development in multi-professional teams for health care practitioners. Students like Gurland showed that the project was not only feasible but also an invaluable experience for both trainee doctors and often under-resourced hospital staff.

Gurland's commitment to quality patient care and medical teamwork were foundational values that led to exemplary internship and community service tenures at outlying hospitals in other parts of the country. His admirable work earned him the accolade of Rural Doctor of the Year, conferred by the Rural Doctors Association of South Africa (RuDASA).

The training that final year Health Sciences students receive at the UCT Southern Cape-Karoo Health Sciences Teaching Platform is proving to be most effective in equipping students with skills to serve in some of our contry's most

challenging socio-economic circumstances. With more students like Dr Mikail Gurland emerging as exemplary health care professionals, donor support for the Southern Cape-Karoo Health Sciences Platform demonstrates invaluable impact in improving access to quality health care for all.

In his nomination for selection as Rural Doctor of the Year, Gurland was noted as demonstrating much initiative to ensure better service delivery and promote a supportive working environment. This was most noted in his commitment to the rehabilitation units of the hospitals at which he served. He initiated a multi-disciplinary team ward round to include Physiotherapists, Occupational Therapists, Speech Therapists, Dieticians, Pharmacists, and Psychologists. The initiative aided in identifying patients who would benefit from rehabilitative care, and also created a learning opportunity as staff became more aware of the scope of practice of their colleagues which further benefited the referral process and patient care was therefore improved. This initiative demonstrated primary health care in action by implementing comprehensive care for patients.

Gurland made himself easily accessible to both patients and hospital staff as he consulted during weekly clinics held for children with Cerebral Palsy as well as for adults who have survived strokes. He accompanied therapists on home visits, offering personalised care to patients and invaluable input for the rehabilitation team. Apart from a passionate commitment to clinical work, Gurland participated in activities such as playing for the hospital soccer team, thereby strengthening camaraderie amongst his colleagues and connecting with the community through sport.

As donor support ensures that the UCT Southern Cape-Karoo Health Sciences Teaching Platform continues to grow and provide holistic training opportunities, more students like Dr Mikail Gurland are enabled to not only pursue their career aspirations but also perform at their best potential.

The Students' Health and Welfare Centres Organisation (SHAWCO) is one of UCT's oldest and largest community intervention initiatives, providing opportunities for students to practice engaged citizenship through health and education support programmes in communities that experience socio-economic challenges.

For 75 years SHAWCO interventions have provided an after-school place of safety, reading programmes, and health care for thousands of children living within communities around the Western Cape: Manenberg, Khayelitsha, Kensington, Nyanga, Imizamo Yethu. The impact of this student-centered volunteer work is most evident in the stories of individuals who have attended programmes as children and gone on to build remarkable professional careers.

SHAWCO dates back to July 1943 when Andrew Kinnear, a medical student at UCT, spent his vacation driving an ambulance to earn money that would pay for his medical training. He was appalled by the poverty and lack of medical facilities in certain areas of Cape Town such as Kensington and Elsie's River, and was determined to respond to these needs. He asked Dr Golda Selzer of the Pathology Department at Groote Schuur Hospital to assist him in establishing a clinic. What started out as a small initiative has now grown into one of the largest student volunteer-driven organisations on the African continent, attracting hundreds of local and foreign visiting students on an annual basis to work on health and education development programmes.

Each year thousands of students sign up as volunteers, working approximately 22 weeks of intervention time with 30 sessions per week for the year. This equates to 660 sessions of quality after-school care and health services for over 800 individuals. The power of the interaction between the student volunteer and child cannot be under-estimated, particularly through the weekly after-school



SHAWCO STUDENT VOLUNTEERS ENGAGE IN HEALTH AND EDUCATION COMMUNITY PROJECTS



education and holiday programmes. Whilst providing academic support is what brings the student and child together, it is the emotional encouragement and reinforcement that the student offers as a positive role-model to the child which has the greatest impact.

SHAWCO Interim Director Thara Kallungal explains that SHAWCO creates a supportive space for experiential learning and enables student volunteers to manifest meaningful change: "I'm proud to be part of SHAWCO as there is nothing more rewarding than giving back and making a difference in the lives of people we serve."

Donor support is one of the key ways in which SHAWCO sustains its work, particularly with regards to infrastructure and equipment for the various education and health initiatives. This commitment from our donor community is one that extends across individuals, corporates, foundations, and family trusts. As SHAWCO celebrates 75 years of student volunteer work, the organisation has embarked on a campaign to raise ZAR 75 million.

# NEUROSCIENCE INSTITUTE

## ADVANCING CLINICAL CARE, RESEARCH AND TEACHING IN THE NEUROSCIENCES



THE SITE OF THE NEUROSCIENCE INSTITUTE AT GROOTE SCHUUR HOSPITAL BEFORE CONSTRUCTION



AN ARTIST'S RENDITION OF THE NEW BUILDING

As the new Neuroscience building takes shape on the Groote Schuur Hospital (GSH) campus, it is with a great sense of gratitude that we acknowledge the goodwill and philanthropy of our donor community who have helped bring this vision to life.

The Neuroscience centre is a multidisciplinary facility which will house Neurosurgery, Neurology, Psychiatry, Neuropsychology and Neuroimaging, all of which provide clinical service, teaching, training and research at Groote Schuur Hospital and the University of Cape Town. The centre will provide an integrated, multidisciplinary clinical service and serve as home to UCT's Neuroscience Institute, and a hub for all neuroscience activity at UCT and its teaching hospitals, such as Red Cross War Memorial Children's Hospital and Valkenberg Hospital.

The idea of a comprehensive and multidisciplinary facility for neurological health care and research has been developed over the past decade after key individuals

from the specialties of Neurology, Paediatric Neurology, Development Paediatrics, Neurosurgery, Neuropsychology, Psychiatry and Neuroimaging recognised the benefits of a closer working relationship. A compelling driver for such integration is the rapid pace of change in all these disciplines, leading to enormous shifts in treatment paradigms. The allied professions, such as physiotherapy, occupational therapy and speech and language therapy have clear relevance to the clinical neurosciences, especially in rehabilitation, and closer links with these disciplines will be rewarding. For patients, such integration offers a more holistic patient care approach and the prospect of rapid translation of scientific discoveries to clinical impact.

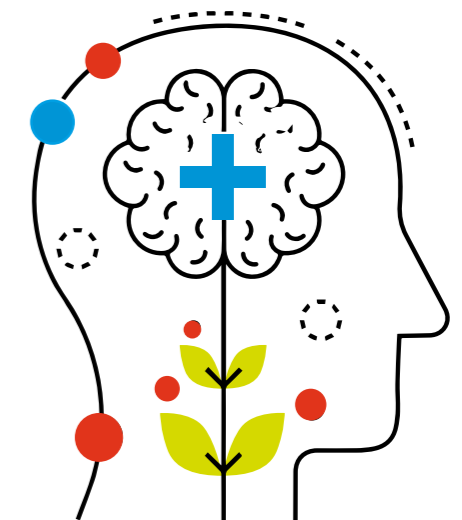
Premier higher education and research institutes across the globe have recognised the knowledge potential in this rapidly evolving field and have responded through the founding of neuroscience research institutes and specialised treatment facilities. Building on this trajectory

and responding to the high burden of neurological and mental health disorders in Africa, UCT formally established the Neuroscience Institute in 2016.

The Institute's research priorities seek to address the disease burden of neurological and mental health disorders in South Africa and on the continent. Priority areas include neuro-infections, such as HIV and tuberculosis, neurotrauma and brain health and development across the lifespan. Uniquely positioned to advance neuroscience research in paediatric and adolescent populations in high risk environments, the Neuroscience Institute will create new opportunities for Africa to contribute to the global body of knowledge.

The importance of increasing capacity in neuroscience research in Africa cannot be overstated. Fundraising efforts for the Neuroscience Institute began in earnest almost five years ago and continues to raise funds towards infrastructure, equipment, and training the next generation of scholars. The

access to advanced quality healthcare that this project seeks to provide, especially for patients who face the challenges of an under resourced public healthcare service, is most inspiring. Equally heart-warming is the thought that donor funding is helping to make this difference.



# DONATIONS HIGHLIGHTS

2018 was a relatively good year for UCT in terms of donor funding. Total donations receipted until the end of December 2018 was just over ZAR 404 million, up from almost ZAR 369 million in 2017. This is a tribute to UCT's standing as a leading university on the continent and indicative of the high regard in which UCT's scholarship, research, teaching and learning is held. Much credit has to be given to excellent project leaders across the faculties who have cultivated strong relationships with funders who continue to support the remarkable work that they do.

# AFRICAN PAEDIATRIC FELLOWSHIP PROGRAMME

BUILDING A WORKFORCE FOR SPECIALIST PAEDIATRIC HEALTH CARE IN AFRICA



TOTAL DONATIONS TO UCT	2014 TO 2018	2014	ZAR 331 993 152
		2015	ZAR 442 069 437
		2016	ZAR 351 749 154
		2017	ZAR 368 996 109
		2018	ZAR 404 077 339

It is very encouraging to note an even split between national (49%) and international (51%) donations, demonstrating the support that the university enjoys internationally and the confidence that local donors have in the university.

 NATIONAL DONATIONS	YEAR	AMOUNT IN ZAR	% OF TOTAL DONATIONS
	2014	105 617 433	32%
	2015	124 805 696	28%
	2016	124 805 696	39%
	2017	192 236 508	52%
	2018	198 996 813	49%

 INTERNATIONAL DONATIONS	YEAR	AMOUNT IN ZAR	% OF TOTAL DONATIONS
	2014	226 375 720	68%
	2015	317 263 741	72%
	2016	215 483 970	61%
	2017	176 759 601	48%
	2018	205 080 526	51%

Individual Giving remains healthy with just over 900 donors giving ZAR 21 million to the university, the vast majority of these being alumni.

Corporate donations continue to show a steady increase, up from ZAR 66 million in 2017 to ZAR 70 million in 2018.

It is also noteworthy that the university's endowment grew by ZAR 16 million, which can be attributed to the Distinguishing UCT Campaign, aimed at growing the university's endowment.

2019 will see the closing out of the Distinguishing UCT Campaign. It will also mark the development of a new fundraising strategy aligned with our vision that is encompassed in the three pillars of excellence, transformation, and sustainability.



AN APFP FELLOW ATTENDING TO A PATIENT AT THE RED CROSS WAR MEMORIAL CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL IN CAPE TOWN

The goal of the African Paediatric Fellowship Programme is to build clinical, research and training capacity across sub-Saharan Africa, by transferring specialised skills to African child health care professionals, especially where resources for such training are minimal. With access to the facilities of Africa's largest hospital for children, the Red Cross War Memorial Children's Hospital, the programme creates opportunities for practitioners from across the continent to gain fundamental training in focused paediatric areas.

The World Health Organisation estimates that approximately 5.4 million children globally under the age of five die each year, equivalent to 15 000 every day. The burden is heavily skewed towards Africa, where almost half of all childhood deaths occur. Among the major causes of this problem is limited access to paediatric health care, a challenge that is being tackled by the African Paediatric Fellowship Programme (APFP).

The APFP was established in 2007 by the Department of Paediatrics and Child Health at the University of Cape Town. It has recently expanded to the Universities of Kwazulu-Natal and Witwatersrand. Working in close long-term partnership with hospitals and training institutions across Africa, the programme equips doctors, rehabilitation therapists and nurses with the specialist or subspecialist skill sets they need to optimise

patient care, to lead on new service developments, and to build an evidence-base for paediatric health care in low-resource settings.

The APFP has established training partnerships with a total of 33 centres in 16 African countries, which recommend trainees to APFP so as to increase their health care capacity in priority areas. Since its inception the APFP has trained 173 child-health specialists from across Africa in 23 different paediatric specialties, thereby building much needed capacity. 98% of these APFP alumni work in Africa. In this way the programme is implementing real change across the continent by creating a network of skilled African child-health specialists who are saving children's lives while strengthening health systems and paediatric training opportunities.

Through the kind commitment of our donor community, contributions to the APFP over the past five years have accumulated a total value of almost ZAR 30 million. This support is primarily used to fund fellowship costs, as well as operational expenses that realise the growth and development of the programme. This is to ensure that more health practitioners from some of the most challenging socio-economic circumstances across the continent are afforded the opportunity to make a difference, and contribute to the sustained advancement of child health in Africa.

# WHY WE ARE GIVING@UCT

## THE HARRY CROSSLEY FOUNDATION AND DORIS CROSSLEY FOUNDATION



MS LINDA WHITFIELD IS A TRUSTEE OF THE HARRY CROSSLEY FOUNDATION AS WELL AS THE DORIS CROSSLEY FOUNDATION

Since 1970, the legacies of Harry and Doris Crossley have assisted hundreds of students at the University of Cape Town in both undergraduate and postgraduate study. Each of the foundations were established as ongoing contributions of these visionary and generous leaders who immigrated to South Africa in 1950 shortly after they married in England. While neither of them had the opportunity to pursue university degrees, they believed very passionately in the need for supporting specialised study and research.

The foundations bear the primary intention of providing bursaries for diverse fields of study. While the Doris Crossley Foundation provides bursary assistance at undergraduate level, the Harry Crossley Foundation has a particular focus on specialised postgraduate and research endeavours. Even though much has been accomplished in terms of state support for university students, a study path from undergraduate to postgraduate degree is still very elusive to talented students who do not have the financial means to pursue their academic aspirations. Due to financial stresses on families, especially those from middle to low income

households, many promising students cannot proceed into Honours, Masters, and Doctoral streams without bursary funding. The potential contribution that these innovative minds can bring to renewing social, scientific, and economic systems can therefore be so easily lost.

With gratitude to the foresight and generosity of Harry and Doris Crossley, UCT is able to provide opportunities for some of our country's most innovative and creative students to make the difference that their education enables them to. The Harry Crossley Foundation has been the biggest supporter of postgraduate funding at UCT and along with support for other research and development initiatives, donations from the Harry Crossley Foundation alone have accumulated a value of ZAR 103 million.

While the focus area of the Harry Crossley Foundation has been on postgraduate scholarships and fellowships, funding has also been generously allocated to the Student Wellness Service for interventions that ensure holistic student development. Funding for research endeavours have been particularly impactful in terms of the influence that the university has in translating its teaching, learning, and research into community development initiatives. Examples of these initiatives include The Perinatal Mental Health Project and the Child Nurse Practice Development Initiative.

UCT is one of the universities selected by the Harry Crossley Foundation and the Doris Crossley Foundation for bursary and research funding, owing to the impressive talent of students and academics who are world-renowned leaders in various disciplines. Such support from both the foundations is invaluable in helping us to play a significant role in our country's competitiveness, generating knowledge and expertise to respond to our key development challenges.

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For further information or to make a financial gift to the University of Cape Town, please contact us through [giving@uct.ac.za](mailto:giving@uct.ac.za)

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